



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



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From the Top Down by Mike Thompson



Let's talk about EVs. You may be aware that the transition to an all-electric future has recently gone wobbly. Major automakers are being candid about current disappointments with the technology. Many are cutting back on EV investments. In October GM publicly abandoned its target to build 100K EVs in the second half of 2023, *and* its goal to build 400K units in the first half of 2024. No new targets were announced, nor was a timetable suggested for when those targets will be met. Honda gave up on plans for a lineup of smaller (under \$30K) EVs, something the market really needs. Toyota confessed to a forced reckoning. "People are finally seeing reality."

What reality? First there is charging. EVs are suited for suburban driving: short trips, never far from charging stations. A commute with an overnight re-charge is ideal, if you have a garage and a 220v circuit. If you park on city streets, without guaranteed access to the same spot, it's significantly more challenging. A drive on the backroads to Bryce Canyon, with an overnight stay in the town of Tropic? Forget about it.

Second there is the initial cost. J D Power reported that American buyers paid an average of \$52K for a new EV this past November, compared with \$44K for a new gasoline model. That higher cost buys the limited drivability mentioned above. The last reality is more of a global issue, and a problem that is not discussed enough. The electricity to charge EVs has to come from somewhere. USAFacts.org estimated that if all cars in the USA were EVs, we would need to generate ~50% more electricity. The EPA says we have "over 11,000 utility-scale power plants" delivering power to the grid. We would need to build another 5,500 such plants to keep EVs going. Think of the necessary mining, materials and labor, assuming states would approve construction.

That said, the driver experience is superior, like-for-like, in an EV. They are quicker, quieter, more responsive and less expensive to *operate* than their gasoline powered cousins. What does any of that mean for the Miata? I like this from MotorTrend: "Despite the tiny roadster often being the butt of pop culture jokes, car enthusiasts have always known better. The Mazda MX-5 is one of the best balanced, cost efficient sports cars ever made." Continuing, "the next MX-5 Miata is probably going to have a hybrid powertrain and a sleek, new design." Available in late 2025, for the 2026 model year, I can hardly wait. Long live the roadster!



February Luncheon and Meeting

by Mike Bailey

Date: Saturday, February 3, 2024 **Time:** 11:30 a.m.
Where: Red Robin Restaurant: 316 E. Winchester Street, Murray, Utah 84107 **Phone:** 801-266-9410

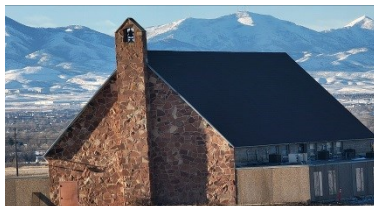


We are starting out the new year right by having our luncheon and meeting at the Red Robin Restaurant in Murray. We will be in the private dining room on the north side of the restaurant. We will have our monthly club meeting and discuss upcoming events and activities. If you have anything that should be brought up to the group please let Mike Thompson know before the meeting. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.



February Drive: Old Utah State Prison Site (weather permitting)

After our business meeting Gordy and Jackie Nicholl will lead us on a short drive to the old Utah State Prison site at the Point of the Mountain which is in the process of being developed into what will be an awesome area for 21st century business, residential and entertainment for the Salt Lake Valley. They have torn down the old prison buildings including the guard towers and have left the historic Chapel there, which is the only building to see. We will line up outside to the south of the Red Robin. The Nicholls' will mention the route they will take for this drive.



Editor's Note:

Please review the "new" Membership Dues Reminder" copy information on top of next page (page 3) written by Michael Thompson. We would like to remind members who's dues are expiring to please submit their Membership Dues on time by the following month of each member's expiration date. There are reminders each month in the newsletter, 3 months in advance of this. We want to keep our membership strong in the Utah Miata Club. We appreciate each person who is a member of the club who help us to keep this club going strong.

Regards; Utah Miata Club Officers and Board of Directors. **ZOOM—ZOOM**



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 Margie Newson, Club Treasurer. If you prefer you may mail a check to 233 W 1550 N, Bountiful, UT 84010. If you have questions Margie may be contacted at 801-295-4563, or by email at sec.treasumc@icloud.com. You may also submit payment by cash, or money order.

Birthdays / Memberships



New Members



NAME	YEAR	COLOR
RICHARD PLUMB	2023	GREY



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

NAME	EXPIRING SOON
KAREN MORGAN	2/28/2024
STEVE & KATHY NIELSEN	2/28/2024

NAME	DATE
KAY BARRELL	4 Feb
SABRINA HANSEN	18 Feb
CHARLENE PETERSEN	21 Feb
KATHI FACKRELL	23 Feb
ANN KLOER	23 Feb
LYNN BAILEY	25 Feb
AINSLEY HEADEY	26 Feb
FREDERICK ECKSTEIN	28 Feb
MARK VAUGHN	28 Feb

Memberships Expired / Please Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRED
HANS CLASSEN	9/30/2023
ROBERT & KATHY JO FACKRELL	9/30/2023
JOSEPH FOWLER	9/30/2023
SABRINA HANSEN	9/30/2023
ROBERT & VICTORIA HANSHEW	10/31/2023
MARK & SHAUNA MIDGLEY	9/30/2023
MARK & COLLEEN REILLY	9/30/2023
TYLER STARK	8/31/2023
CAROL LYNN VREDEVELD	8/31/2023
KIRK & LUZ WARNER	8/31/2023
ROSEANN WHITAKER	10/31/2023



Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
ROBERT & VICTORIA HANSHEW	10/31/2023
ROSEANN WHITACKER	10/31/2023

Club Officers (July 2023 - July 2024)

President: Michael Thompson Vice President: Ken Jaworski Secretary: Jim Newson Treasurer: Margie Newson
 Directors: Robert Mechling, Susan Christiansen, Carol Lynn Vredeveld Newsletter Editor: Mike Bailey, Asst. Val

March 2nd Luncheon, Meeting and Outing:

Carol Lynn Vredevel

Where: **Jim's Family Restaurant**

1728 W Park Ave, Riverton, UT 84065 (approx. 12800 So. Redwood Road)

When: **11:30 am Luncheon and Meeting**

12:50 pm Depart restaurant heading towards;

Event: **"Roots of Knowledge" UVU Fulton Library, Orem**

800 West University Pkwy, Orem, UT

1:30pm Guided tour: Admission: Free



Because the weather is unpredictable in Feb., I thought it might be fun to visit the "Roots of Knowledge" exhibit in the **Bingham Gallery** on the first floor of **UVU's Fulton Library** at the UVU Campus in Orem.

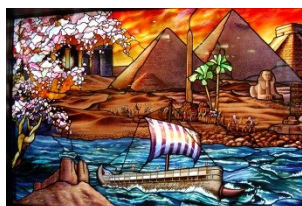
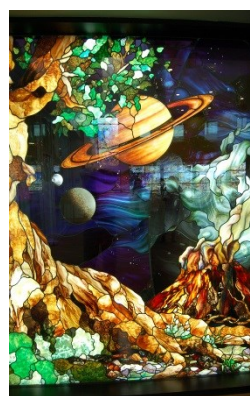
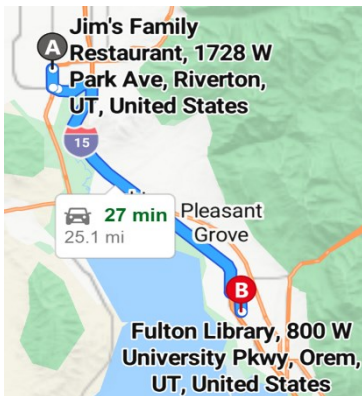
We had visited this exhibit once before, but it was quite a few years ago ...those of us that went really enjoyed the experience. The story of humanity from the beginning to the unforeseen future is depicted in beautiful stained-glass panes, and I had never seen anything quite like this before here in Utah.



A "Roots of Knowledge" representative will meet us at the Fulton Library to tell us all about the exhibit. There will even be a scavenger hunt for those that would like to participate.

Driving Route to Fulton Library and Parking:

We will head **east on 12600 So to I-15 and follow the freeway South approx. 25 miles to exit 271.** (about 27 min) **Head right on the ramp for Center Street towards Orem. Bear left on to West Center Street. Turn right on to 800 West. Turn right by Panda Express on the corner to destination.** There is plenty of parking since it is a Saturday in the student and employee parking lots.



Miata Tales by Ken Jaworski



British Racing Green just might be the colour of the year. I have to assume because we drive the Miata MX5 that we enjoy the small car feeling, but might you want to go smaller. Join me on 4 May to go to Huntsville, Utah for the best in small cars. Further info about what you will see will be presented in future Miata Tales. I will also give you the specs for this CycleKart Festival. BTW this sport is not just for the guys.

Cycle Kart Event Details:

When: Saturday May 4, 2024

Where: Huntsville Town Park East 200 South, Huntsville, Utah



We will have our Monthly Meeting and Luncheon at Shephard Park in Farmington, Utah at 10:30 a.m. located at 760 W. Shephard Lane. We have been to this park before. Picnic tables are available on the two pavilions available, but we will not have reservations, so it's maybe a good idea to bring your camp chairs possibly for lunch picnic and also for the Cycle Kart event in case other people are at the tables. Bring a picnic lunch/fast food places nearby. Rest rooms are available at the park. After meeting and eating we will head out and take Legacy Hwy. and then Hwy. 89 to Huntsville. Approximate time is about one-half hour to get there, about 27 miles. There will be food trucks and various vendors at the event and also several restaurants by the park. More information will follow on the details for this event in next month's newsletter. Those who attended last year's event were impressed on how fun it was to see the karts. Just a note, 39 carts are registered to participate in this already.




Flyin' Miata 25th Summer Camp (June 13-16, 2024) By Valerie Francis

Looking for a fun 3 or 4 day weekend getaway in mid-June? If so, how about joining me and Doyle on a trip to Palisades CO for Flyin' Miata's Summer Camp.

The details have not been announced by Flyin' Miata yet, but you may want to go ahead and add this to your calendar. Flyin' Miata website states: "Details are still being worked out, but we're planning on a couple of track days, some gorgeous drives, tech talks, new products and of course lots of Miata friends."

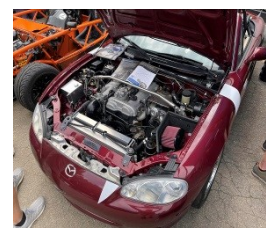
Doyle and I went last year and reported about it in the July 2023 newsletter. Here's a short recap of what we did last year:

We drove down Friday, arriving mid-afternoon to watch Miatas race at the Grand Junction Motor Speedway (looks like 2024 may include more than one race day). Friday evening, we (along with another 50+ Miatas) took a Sunset drive over Colorado National Monument.

Saturday included a car show, lectures, a catered lunch and BBQ dinner, and an awards ceremony. If Saturday is "tech heavy lectures" again, those that want can skip a few lectures and instead visit cute downtown Palisades for a couple of hours.



On Sunday, 30+ Miatas drove over Grand Mesa, the world's largest flat top mountain. Several Miatas peeled off along the way to head home. Doyle and I spent the rest of the afternoon touring Palisade wineries and downtown Grand Junction. We drove home on Monday, but this year we will probably drive home on Sunday afternoon.



Peak to Peak Miata Club Event 2024 by Steve Beckstead

Trip will be from Sunday, September 15—Saturday, September 21, 2024

We are going to the 'Peak to Peak' Miata Club in Colorado event this year in September. Date of event is September 16-18, 2024. We have at least 5-6 couples from our club going. The event is at the Redstone Inn, however all the rooms at the host hotel are sold out. We are at **Redstone Cliffs Lodge**. There are not many rooms left and they are about \$190/night with 1 night's deposit paid in advance which is refundable.



Link below to the Redstonecliffs Lodge:

<https://www.redstonecliffs.com/>



If going you need to book September 16,17,18, 2024 (3 Nights). I emailed the Sec/Treas of Peak to Peak. The event itself is not even open yet. The rooms are all gone at the host hotel (Redstone Inn) except for 2 big suites at \$360+ per night. There is a link on our club's Facebook page to register for the event with the Peak to Peak Club.

Here is the event link: <https://www.peaktopeakmiata.org/event-details/30-in-24-celebration>

The trip is not planned yet but I have a route in mind. The dates are probably Sunday 15th through the 21st, Saturday? You should book your rooms soon as they sell out fast. There are other B&B's or maybe hotels nearby. EVERYONE IS ON THEIR OWN TO GET RESERVATIONS.

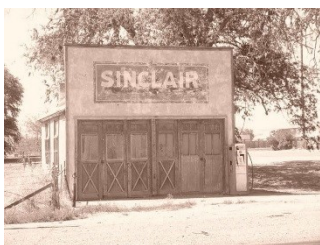
Leaving on Sunday, September 15th we will stay the first night in Clifton, Colorado at the Best Western Grande River Inn & Suites. There are other motels close by if you do not want to stay there.



Impromptu Miata Club Drive / Car Show in Elberta, Utah by Mike Bailey

Date: April 13, 2024

Possible April 13 Miata Club Drive to the old Sinclair Station in Elberta, Utah for a Car Show. I have not confirmed the date or event with the owner of the property yet as it was mentioned to Lynn and I last summer when we stopped by there and met the owner who gave us a private showing of the insides of this historic service station. It was constructed to serve the town of Elberta and those people who were commuting to and from a nearby gold mine. This Sinclair station on US HWY. 6 started serving early automobiles in 1917 and was in service until 1982. The Tintic Standard Mine closed in 1947 and then people started moving from the area and most took their homes and business structures away with them. The town of Elberta started to decline at this time. Carl Patten bought the station in 1973 and after he passed away his son Gaylord took over the property. He worked on his first car, a 1929 Model A in the shop at the station. The Conoco Blue Light Service Station was across the street. The station was originally built in Dividend, a mining community just east of Eureka and was moved to the current site in 1917 when Dividend basically became a ghost town.





MIATA SWAG Page by MiataWear Man- Mike



For the new year be sure to order some Miata Wear for yourself or your better half! I have several different Utah Miata Club T-Shirts and Hats in stock. Items like Denim Shirts (long or short sleeve) or Polo Shirts or the **Hawaiian Style Shirts are custom orders**. Order a custom Utah Club Hawaiian Miata Shirt featuring photos of actual Miatas that members own. 3 Styles to Choose from: Lakes Mountains Version, Route 66 Version, or the Utah Motiefs Desert Version. These are \$42.00 each. With a Pocket on front add \$5.00 and Shipping is \$5.00 per shirt. Summer is coming so if you missed out on last year's order, buy one now!



Club Jackets: If you don't have an Official Utah Miata Club Jacket, now is the time to order one. They come in handy all year long. Many different colors available in all sizes. Several logos to choose from embroidered on front left chest: Official Logo, Mountains Logo, Long Live the Roadster Logo, among others.



Miata Wear Items: **NEW: Knit Hats** also Available! Logos are embroidered on these hats. This is a new item, but are popular in the cold driving months! Order one NOW!



Sweatshirts: Many styles to choose from: Pullover with Hoodie/Pockets, Crew Neck, Full-Zip with Hoodie/pockets, 1/4 Zip with pockets. Print front and/or back. You can also put "Miata" Roadster" or "Miatatude" logotype on the sleeve for an extra \$10.00.



Please Note: As most of you know, I pass around a **'Sign-up' Sheet** on a clipboard at the monthly club meetings. The club is trying to keep the meetings at the luncheon a little shorter, so we can spend more time visiting with each other. I will be limiting my speaking about club MiataWear apparel. The sign up sheet will list all items (shirts, hats or other UMC logo items) that are "in stock" or you can "Custom Order." If you want an item, I usually

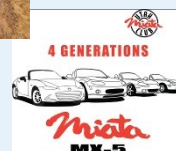


I also have **Miatatude** shirts and hats which are very nice and simple. Display your "Miata Attitude"! You can get them in any color and price is \$20.00.

NEW! The 'old design' of our very first Utah Miata Club shirt which came out in 1991 and featured the "Miata Club Of America" logo on it, as that logo was used by most all the early Miata clubs in the country. Miata clubs identified themselves as part of the national **Miata Club of America**. Ours was the "Utah Chapter". This shirt item was mentioned briefly last month. Anyone can purchase one for \$20.00. (\$22.00 for size 2XL). They print best on an Ash, or light Grey, but if you'd like any light color shirt, that's ok.



Ball Caps are in stock and you can order with Official, Long Live the Roadster, ND Miata. Lady's hats; Miata Girl or Miata Hair-Don't Care. Flames caps available now! Sun-Shade Caps also by request.




2024 Calendar of Events


- February 3rd:** Lunch, Meeting Red Robin; Drive weather permitting. Mechlings & Nicholls.
- February 10th:** Play / Activity: Maybe “39 Steps” on Feb.10 at 7:30 pm, Sandy. Need ideas and sponsor
- March 2nd:** Luncheon & Drive; Jim’s Rest. Riverton; Roots of Knowledge Drive-Orem: Carol Lynn Vredeveld
- April 6th:** Luncheon & Drive TBA; Mike & Lynn Bailey or need Planner to plan.
- April 13th:** Car Show at “Old Sinclair” Elberta, Utah; Mike & Lynn Bailey
- May 4th:** Luncheon 10:30, Drive Grand Prix Cycle Karts; Huntsville. Details in NL: Bailey’s & Jaworski’s
- June 1st:** Rat Fink Reunion in Manti. TBA: Time & Details to follow: Steve & Ronda Beckstead
- June: 2nd Week Approx:** Exact date TBA; Flyin’ Miata Summer Camp; Doyle Sturm & Valerie Francis See some details in Newsletter.
- July 20th:** LDS Church Pavilion, Murray; Time TBA. Summer BBQ Picnic and Elections: Board of Directors
- August 3rd:** Luncheon & Drive: TBA; Need Drive Leader & Planner
- August:** TBA; Summer Drive to Central or Southern Utah; Need Drive Leader & Planner
- September 7th:** Luncheon & Drive: (TBA) Need Drive Leader & Planner
- September 15-21st:** Peak to Peak Miata Club Event / Redstone Cliffs Lodge, CO.; Steve & Ronda Beckstead
- October 5th:** Luncheon & Drive: (place TBA) Local Fall Leaf Drive / Guardsman’s Pass / Wasatch Mountain State Park / Cascade Springs on Alpine Loop Drive Road: Mike & Lynn Bailey
- October 26th:** Possible Halloween Party; TBA; Need Event Planner
- November 2nd:** Luncheon & Drive: (TBA) Need Leader & Planner
- December 7th:** Christmas Party: (TBA) Board of Directors



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Please let Editor know of any items that need to be added to this Calendar of Events.



Editor’s Note:

We’d like to have UMC members come up with some ideas for possible places for monthly luncheons and drives for our 2024 Calendar. Refer to open spots on above calendar. You can just 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.



Enjoy these photos of some February Birthdays and Candid Camera photos at various Miata events!

