



Ragtops to Ridges

February 2026



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



From the Top Down by Robert Olsen

Thank you to everyone who has participated in any way to help make the Utah Miata Club the success it is today. Whether you have helped plan an event, led a drive, brought food, volunteered your time, or simply showed up with a smile and a love for driving, you have contributed to what makes this club special. The Utah Miata Club thrives because of the energy, enthusiasm, and willingness of its members to get involved.



Many people, often behind the scenes, have stepped up over the years to organize activities, suggest new ideas, and ensure our events run smoothly. From experienced leaders to first-time volunteers, every effort matters. This truly is *your* club, built by members who share a passion for Miatas, great roads, and good company. Because of that, we want everyone to feel encouraged to participate, contribute ideas, and take an active role in shaping what we do.

Throughout the year, we enjoy a wide variety of activities that reflect the diverse interests of our members. These include impromptu rides, day drives, overnight adventures, and carefully planned annual events. Some highlights have been Tech Day, our Polar Day Ride to kick off the season, the Summer BBQ, Crazy Hat Drive, Road Rally, and the always-popular Fall Leaf Drive in September or October. Each of these events exists because members were willing to step up and help make them happen.

In addition, we hold important annual gatherings such as our Planning Meeting and Club Officer Elections at the summer picnic. During the colder months, when our Miatas are tucked away in the garage, the fun continues with indoor activities like plays, movies, and our annual Christmas Holiday Party. In other words, there is always something FUN to do in the Utah Miata Club, no matter the season. As we look ahead, we encourage everyone to get involved by volunteering to help with a monthly event, suggesting new activities, or leading a drive. Fresh ideas and new faces keep the club vibrant and growing. Thank you again for your support, participation, and friendship. The Utah Miata Club is what it is because of *you*.

With sincere appreciation,
Robert Olsen President, Utah Miata Club

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February Luncheon & Activity by Robert Olsen



Please Note: This month's luncheon and activity will be the First Saturday of the month instead of our regular second Saturday of the month! Lunch will be at 12:00 Noon, a little later than our usual time, and at a different Jim's location.

Luncheon: When: Saturday, February 7th, 12:00 Noon Where: Jim's Family

Restaurant 9236 Village Shop Dr., Sandy, Utah 84070 (drive east off 9000 S. up by Quarry Bend Dr, or east on 9400 drive).



JIM'S
Family Restaurant



We will have our monthly club luncheon and activity on first Saturday of this month instead of 2nd Saturday at Jim's Family Restaurant. First time we've been to this Jim's location. Breakfast served all day! Excellent Salads and Desserts. Monthly club business will be conducted here. Let the group know of any other activities or drives you'd like to participate in for the balance of the Winter and Spring! We are always open to new suggestions.

**Activity: Desert Star Playhouse, Murray, Utah Address is
4861 South State St., Murray, UT 84107**

Featured Play will be "Greased" Time: 3:30 pm



Get your tickets NOW as they sell out quickly!

Adults are \$30.95. Those reserved so far have seats on Row 5 & 6 however you can sit anywhere. All seats have a good view of the stage! Call 801-226-2600 for seat reservations. Email: boxoffice@thestarstage.com.

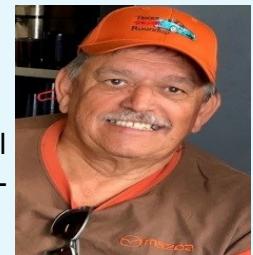


Parking is available on the street or in back of theater. After we finish lunch until when the play starts we will have plenty of time to get to the theater but you should arrive well before the starting time of the play. Everyone can make their own way to the theater. This will be a very fun event so hope you will attend.



Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting Report

by Mike Bailey, Vice President



We had our First Quarter of 2026 UMC Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 14th at Bountiful Mazda. Thanks to our dealer sponsor for providing the conference room and allowing us to conduct our meeting there. We appreciate their sponsorship of the club and we also ask that all members please thank them for their support of the club by patronizing their dealership to either purchase a new car or for purchasing parts and service for our Mazdas.

Mainly we had a discussion about our club's two annual parties and get-togethers; our **Summer Picnic** at which we also have our annual **Election & Planning Meeting**. Our President, Robert Olsen is currently working on a place where we can meet Saturday, July 18, 2026. It will soon be time to start thinking of our elections for new club officers and directors to nominate at the summer elections! We'd like for some newer club members to consider one of these positions, as you may be surprised that it is **not** a lot of work serving as an officer or director of the club. Just ask any past officer or board member!



The other party we discussed was our annual **Holiday Christmas party**. We have decided to have it at the Edison Events Center again for the 3rd consecutive year, as the price was a pretty good deal and we did not have to do any of the 'set-up' or 'take-down' of tables and chairs nor clean up the facility like we have had to do in the past. We've checked some other venues and pricing has been a lot higher for the meals or to rent a venue for this. The club is always open to discussion on these matters and all club members are always invited to come to a club board meeting to discuss club business. If anyone has any suggestions or connections for places like this then we welcome your opinion!



On our Membership Dues reminder page in our monthly newsletter, we have changed the "*Expiring Soon*" column to the "**Paid Thru**" date to show when a member's dues should be paid. This will give all members a 'head's up' on when your annual dues are due. If your name appears there please plan to pay your annual dues by this date. The following month if dues are not paid names will appear as '*Memberships Expired*'. The club depends on all members paying their dues so that we can still provide benefits to members such as the monthly door prize drawings, birthday gift cards on your birthday (if present at the meeting) and also for all expenses related to the club that we have to pay each year, which include our summer and holiday party, etc.



Be sure to support our local Mazda Dealership
BOUNTIFUL MAZDA for a New or Used Car
and for your Service and Parts. (801) 397-2277

ZOOM

 **MAZDA**
ZOOM-ZOOM



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



New Members

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
DAVID TRIBE	2022	SOUL RED GT RF

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

NAME	PAID THRU
ANTHONY BROWNING	28 FEB 2026
KATHY / STEVE NIELSEN	28 FEB 2026
RYAN / EMMA RICHMAN	28 FEB 2026
JIM / MARILYN BICKLEY	31 MAR 2026
BRAD HAMBLIN	31 MAR 2026
DOUGLES KLUENDER	31 MAR 2026
ROBERT / SHARON MECHLING	31 MAR 2026
BOB / KIM RICHARDS	31 MAR 2026

Memberships Expired / Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRED
JOE LEVERICH / JOANN JACOBSON WELLS LEVERICH	31 DEC 2025
BRENT PALMER	31 DEC 2025
MIGUEL MALDONADO	31 JAN 2026
BEN McGEE	31 JAN 2026
RYAN McGEE	31 JAN 2026
LEE TREVOR	31 JAN 2026

KAY BARRELL	04 FEB
LEE TREVOR	07 FEB
MIGUEL MALDONADO	10 FEB
JOANN JACOBSON WELLS	13 FEB
LANETTE WILSON	13 FEB
GREG WILSON	15 FEB
SABRINA HANSEN	18 FEB
CHARLENE PETERSEN	21 FEB
LYNN BAILEY	25 FEB
AINSLEY HEADEY	26 FEB
MARK VAUGHN	28 FEB



REMOVED FROM ROSTER	EXP.
NONE	

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 Web Master: Doyle Sturm Newsletter Editor: Mike Bailey



March Luncheon & Drive by Jackie Nicholl



Where: Cracker Barrel in Layton, Utah **Time:** 11:00 AM
Address: 1792 No. Heritage Park Blvd. Layton, UT.



We will meet at the Cracker Barrell at 11:00 am. We will order off the menu. We'll have our monthly meeting and discuss upcoming events and activities for our Spring and Summer driving season. After lunch we will line up our Miatas for a drive to Antelope Island if weather permits. Details below on the drive. If the weather is bad we will drive to the Hill Air Force Base Museum for a tour there.

Antelope Island Drive and Activity

Destination: Antelope Island and drive to the Fielding Garr Ranch

Note: You will need a Utah State Park Pass for free entrance or there is a fee to cross the Causeway: Entrance Fee: \$15.00 per vehicle up to 8 people. Senior entrance Fee is \$10.00. If you want to purchase a Utah State Parks Pass the annual fee is \$65.00.

NOTICE: The Visitor Center is currently closed for construction and renovation. Temporary Visitor Information and gifts located at the Antelope Island Marina, to the right as you approach the island.



Visitor Center/Information: 801-725-9263 Visitor's Booth Information and Address: 4528 West 1700 South Syracuse, Utah 84075 **Entrance Booth/Information:** 801-773-2941

Senior entrance fee (65 years of age): \$10 per vehicle up to 8 people Antelope Island Annual Pass: \$65 (includes the Davis County Causeway fee) [Annual State Parks Day Use Pass](#): \$125 for Utah Residents, \$65 for Utah Resident Seniors. Photos from past events to Antelope Island.





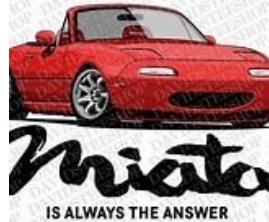
MIATA TIDBITS

by Mike Bailey



Newsworthy Items from UMC Members

Miata Car Colors by Mike Bailey



Did you know that the 3 basic colors that Mazda first came out with were Classic Red, Crystal White, and Mariner Blue. Silver Stone Metallic was added in March 1990. A Special Edition color was added for the next three years and after that sometimes two Special Edition colors were added. On the first generation Miata (NA) these models were called "M" Editions. On second generation Miatas (NB) these MX-5's were called SE's or Special Editions. There have been at least one Special Edition Miata in all manufactured years and is usually designated by a special paint color made for that particular year. Very popular in 2002 was the Blazing Yellow Mica, and only 1,000 were produced worldwide. Also the Velocity Red was a popular color. In 2005 Mazda came out with a limited edition color called Lava Orange Metallic which was also a **Mazda-Speed** with a turbo-charged engine and Mazda made the 'Speeds' in 2004-2005. This orange color has only been featured once in the MX-5 color scheme like the Blazing Yellow!

The (NC) Miatas started in 2006 thru 2015. The most popular color was Copper Red for several years. The 3rd generation Miata also came out with the PRHT (power retractable hardtop) version which was very popular as it made it real easy to put up the top especially when the weather was rainy or bad. However, the "rag top" will always be the standard in Miatas.

In 2016 the (ND) or 4th generation Miata came out and has been very popular as the looks changed a lot from the previous generations. Also the RF (retractable fastback) top came out and has been popular for many enthusiasts.

Mazda Generations:

(NA): 1990-1998

(NB): 1999-2005

(NC): 2006-2015

(ND): 2016-2026 (present)

(NE): ?

Miata Air Conditioning Vents!

Air Vents won't stay in position?

Do your air conditioning vents slip around in their housing? You set them in position and go over a bump and they slide down so the air conditioning is not pointing at you. Just pick up some self-adhesive Velcro round dots at anyplace such as Walmart and put the soft one on the bottom of the round vent so it is hidden from view. This will keep your vent in place and you have solved your problem for under \$1.00.



Ian Granger (former member's) 2001 ND was initially a British Racing Green that he had painted like a British flag!





Dark Sky Night Event by Ken Jaworski & Robert Mechling



Bryce Canyon "Starry Night" presentation: Sunday-Monday, June 14-15, 2026. Ken Jaworski

To those of you that wanted to go to Bryce Canyon National Park at the summer member's meeting, here are the dates (dictated by mother nature and the park service)

.....Depart Saturday June 13, 2026 to arrive for the STARRY NIGHT PRESENTATION, visit Bryce and the local area Sunday June 14, 2026, RTB Monday June 15, 2026.....

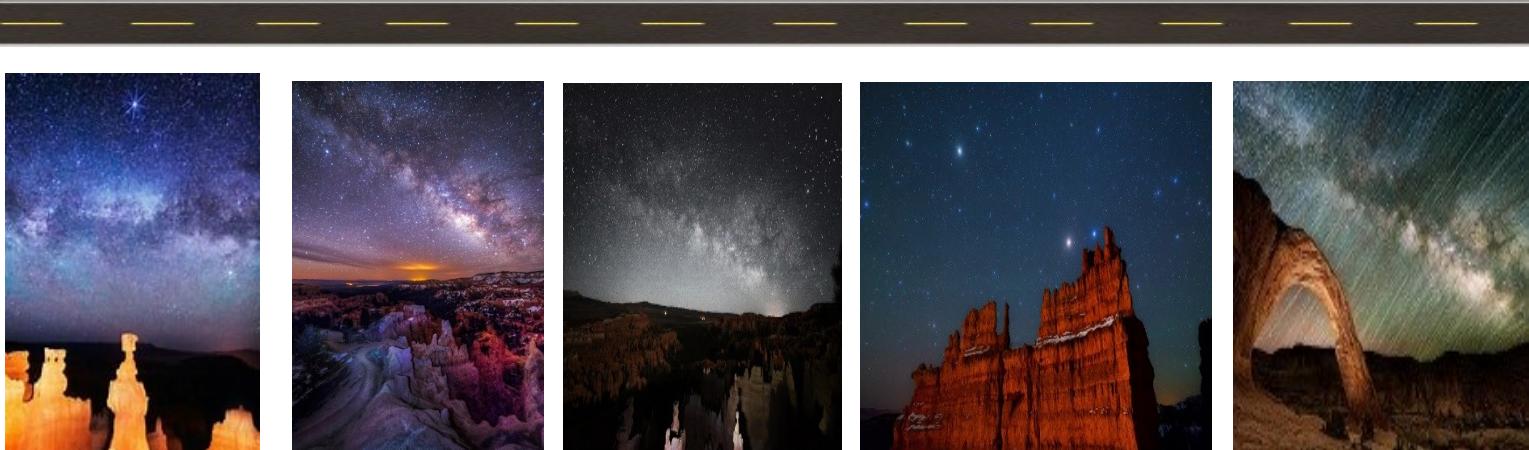
Bryce Canyon will present "DARK RANGER PROGRAM" on Saturday night weather permitting. Here is a quick article for STARRY Night:

" High elevation, clean dry air, and lack of light pollution make Bryce Canyon one of Earth's darkest places. With our Dark Rangers' help, Bryce Canyon offers you ultimate stargazing. High-quality darkness is ablaze with starlight. On moonlesss nights the Milky Way looks like a huge silvery rainbow from horizon to horizon. Venus and Jupiter are so bright they create shadows.

Powerful telescopes reveal the new stars inside nursery nebulae, shock waves from exploded stars, and ancient globular clusters that seem like diamonds on black velvet. Millions of light years beyond, but reached by our telescopes, other galaxies of all shapes and sizes inspire the imagination. Making the most of a (dark) New Moon, our Park Rangers offer guided night hikes among the hoodoos. Bryce Canyon is the perfect place to see why astronomy fascinates so many people. Use our website to plan your stellar visit."

I'm working on this event, but am hampered by Bryce Canyon N.P. because they have not posted their 2026 Calendar. I will be publishing details when I am able to obtain them. BUT!!!! Lodging seems to be the most current crucial detail right now. Please see the charts below that offer lodging at Bryce Canyon NP or near it. This was copied from "Travel Guide, Brycecanyoncountry.com" dated 2022. When Robert/Sharon Mechling texted me, they were pricing rooms and were told there were none available. Jan quickly got on the phone using our Worldwide Best Western Reservation Card and she got our reservations \$\$\$.

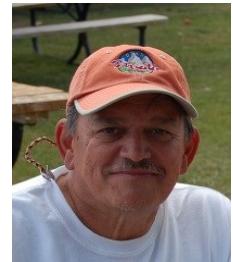
Editor's Note: Hotel options for this event: I'm checking with my contacts at the Best Western Bryce Canyon Inn who also owns Ruby's Inn where the club has stayed before during Miatas at Bryce Canyon back in 2014 to see if I can get some rooms for us. Once I have that information and the pricing I can reserve a block of rooms for our group.



Fall Event Drive with Texas Bluebonnet Miata Club

by Mike Bailey

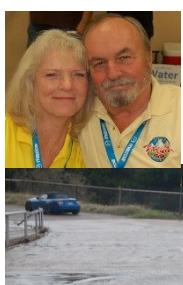
Some of our Miata friends from the Bluebonnet Miata Club are coming to Utah at the end of September this year and would like to hook up with us to see some of our favorite places in Utah, namely some National or State Parks. I've agreed to send them some information on some places we've been to before which will highlight what Utah has to offer. Their dates to be in Utah are from Sept. 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. I'm thinking we could plan our annual Fall Drive around this schedule and also have some fun with these Miata people who many of them we met when we went to the Texas Miata Roundup event back in September 2018 which was sponsored by both the Bluebonnet and Lone Star Miata Clubs. Particularly, Craig Martin and George Lucas (who is the Texas club's newsletter editor) are good friends.



I'm going to try and get some good deals on accommodations in Moab at the Red Cliffs Lodge or other places as I have contacts with around Moab and Bryce, etc. You can decide how many days you want to go and places you'd like to visit. I guarantee the Texas people are mighty friendly as I've been friends with many of them when we've done our Miatas in Utah events!



A general plan for now from the Texas folks is to spend the 18th-21st in or around Moab, 22nd at Capitol Reef, 23rd at Bryce and 24th at Zion before they head to Page, AZ. and back home. Photos below are of some taken on our 2018 trip to the Texas Miata Roundup.



Enjoy these photos of Utah Miata Club's February Birthdays



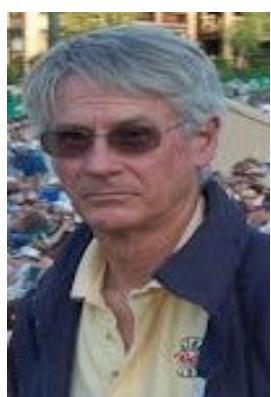
LYNN BAILEY



CHARLENE PETERSEN



ANNIE KLOER



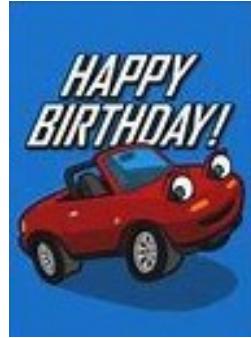
MARK VAUGHN



JOANN JACOBSON-WELLS



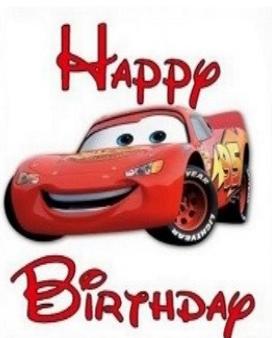
Monthly Birthday Celebrations at UMC Luncheons



SABRINA HANSEN



AINSLEY HEADY



Monthly Door Prize Give-Aways Photos not Available: Kay Barell, Lee Trevor, Greg & Lanette Wilson, Miguel Maldonado

Photos of Birthday Members: Check out how our youngest UMC member Ainsley has grown up through the years!



Miata Swag / Apparel, Car Club Magnets by Mike Bailey

Knit Hats-great for the winter. MX-5 Embroidered on them.



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



It's club Jacket time as the weather gets cooler. We have official Utah Miata Club Jackets with several options depending on what you like. Or you can have the Club Logo (Official logo or Mountains Logo with color of your Miata) on them. If you like you can provide your own jacket for embroidery of the logo on it. Several colors to choose from. Most come with or without a concealed hood. Jackets have a nice lining in them. They fit neatly behind your seats.

Contact me by preferably email mike@mikebaileyprinting.com or by text at 801-597-1456.



Jackets, Sweatshirts (all styles) pull-over hoodies, crew neck, 1/4 zip, full zip with pockets. Denim Shirts, T-Shirts,



\$25-30.00 depending on style/ brand. These are great for the fall or winter and even spring weather.

"Long Live the Roadster" Polo Shirts in most colors. Also can make them in T-Shirts in any color. Miata Shirts in any colors.



MIATA SUPPORT VEHICLE CAR MAGNETS
New Magnets feature the Official Utah Miata

NEW!



Official Club Magnets or Mountains Logo Magnets with color of your Miata on them.

[Miata Support Vehicle Car Magnets are now available!](#)



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





2026 Calendar of Events



February 7th: Lunch: Jim's Rest. Sandy; Play: Desert Star Theater: See Pg. 2 NL: 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 6th: Luncheon & Drive (TBD): 11:30; Steve & Ronda Beckstead

June 14-15: Dark Sky Observation /Starry Night; Bryce Canyon:

Photography: Ken Jaworski & Robert Mechling

July 18th: Annual Picnic & Business Meeting: Time & 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.

September 18th-24th?: Fall Drive with Texas Miata Club, Tentative Schedule See Pg. 8 NL

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

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

December 12th: Annual Christmas Party: Time & Place (TBD): UMC Board

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 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



DOYLE & VAL



STEVE BECKSTEAD



DONN & JANET CICHOCKI



JIM NEWSON



ROGER HEATH



LARRY, CHARLENE PETERSEN



MIKE & JIM



RONDA, AMY BECKSTEAD



PATTY ADAMS



JAROM P. & SARIAH P.



MIKE & LYNN BAILEY



ROBERT OLSEN & FRIEND



BUDD & DENISE



SPENCE WODD



KEN JAWORSKI



KELLY T. & STEVE B.



SUE & TY KIISEL



MIKE T. & MCGEE FAMILY- 2025



BIRTHDAYS AT UMC LUNCHEON-2025



LORI, DAVE ORTIZ, ROBERT OLSEN