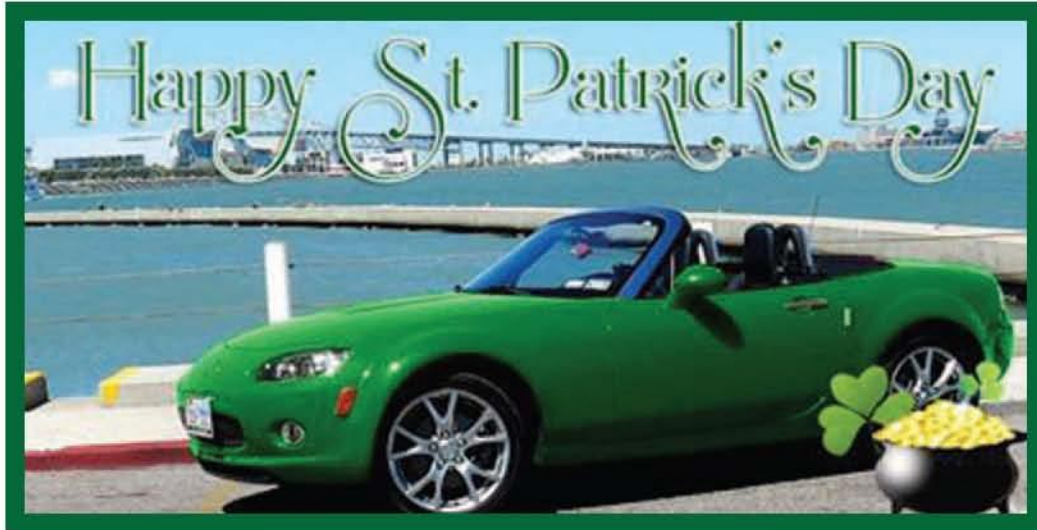


RAGTOPS TO RIDGES



MARCH 2017

"THE CONVERTIBLE CHRONICLES OF THE UTAH MIATA CLUB"



From the Top Down

Submitted by Lou Vredevel

Here we are in March already. February was very interesting, from cruising top down, enjoying the sunshine to shoveling snow and freezing. Like I said, if you don't like the weather in Utah, wait 10 Minutes. Isn't that the truth this year! We had a great February luncheon at Red Robin in Murray and 34 members were able to attend the event and have a nice lunch. The weather was such that we did not have a drive afterwards. Hopefully that is going to change in the upcoming months as the temperatures begin to warm.

The Ice Castles event in Midway on the 8th was canceled due to warm weather, same as it was last year. We did however follow up with dinner and a play on 17th. We had dinner at the Joy Luck Restaurant on State Street in Sandy. 17 members were able to attend the most memorable dinner I have been



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www.utahmiataclub.org

From the Top Down - Continued

to in a long time. Just after placing our orders the power went out. With the help of our cell phones and a few flashlights that were in our cars, we still had a great dinner. Being that the restaurant used gas stoves they were still able to cook our meals and took care of us very well. It was fun trying to eat by flashlight, but a few of us ended up with remnants of dinner on our shirts. The power come back on just in time to pay the bills. Afterwards, we rushed to the play, "See How They Run" at the Mount Jordan Middle School Theater and enjoyed the fast paced, funny British humor. It is my understanding that Sandy City subsidized this new theater in order to put on these programs that they could no longer accommodate. Many of us remember attending past performances at the Sandy City Hall. Last but not least, on the 25th several members went to Carvention, an indoor car show at the Salt Lake County Fairgrounds where many locally owned classic and custom cars were on display.



I would like to invite you to take a look at the Utah Miata Club Website. Doyle Sturm, our



new Webmaster has been very busy making it work for our needs. The Website (www.Utahmiataclub.org) is the easiest way to check on upcoming and past events and catch up on the latest club news. Also check out the new format of this Newsletter that Mike Bailey our Media Manager has been working diligently on to streamline and give it a new look. This great club only exists because of all the hard work put in by its members. Stay tuned to

the Website and Newsletter as the summer driving season is almost on our doorstep. We have many upcoming events and drives planned and will post them when possible, in ample time for you to schedule.



Ragtops to Ridges is the Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club and is the club's official newsletter. It is published monthly and presents information on club news, activities and events. All information and photos are property of the Utah Miata Club.

President:
Lou Vredevelde

Vice President:
Steve Beckstead

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Jim Newson

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Margie Newson

Directors:
Mike Bailey, Spence Wood, Doyle Sturm
Parliamentarian: Gordy Nicholl

Newsletter Editor:
Crystal Miller

Webmaster:
Doyle Sturm





NAME	DATE
ROBERT SMITH	1 Mar
DAVE PORTER	3 Mar
PAT ACHTER	9 Mar
DIANE BLACK	11 Mar
ERIC KANKAINEN	11 Mar
ROBERT KLINSHAW	22 Mar
AARON THOMPSON	30 Mar
VICKY VANSICKLE	31 Mar

NEW MEMBERS

JEAN GLINES - 1999 - EMERALD MICA

DON BLUMENTHAL / KARLEEN CALLAHAN - 2017 - MACHINE GREY LE

SANDRA CHRISTENSEN - 2017 - GREY

WELCOME TO THE CLUB
 VISIT: WWW.UTAHMIATACLUB.ORG
 OR WWW.UTAHMIATACLUB.COM

EXPIRING SOON

NAME	DATE
BILL & JANET ANDERSON	3/31/2017
RICHARD DELAND	3/31/2017
FRANK & VICKY HOUSER	3/31/2017
DOUGLAS KLUENDER	3/31/2017
ROBERT & SHARON MECHLING	3/31/2017
ANNETTE NIELSEN	3/31/2017
RICH & NANCY SINGER	3/31/2017

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. It is \$25 if you have the newsletter emailed to you or \$45 if you would like a hard copy sent by standard mail. You can also pay your dues online on our website: utahmiataclub.org with PayPal online. This method is \$27 (the extra covers PayPal fees.) If mailing a check, please send it to: 233 West 1550 North, Bountiful, Utah 84010 (Phone 801-295-4563) and make it out to Utah Miata Club. Margie can also be contacted at the following email address: sec.treasumc@icloud.com



www.utahmiataclub.org
 Email: sec.treasumc@icloud.com

Hey! Nice Car!

For the most fun you can have in a Miata, join the *Utah Miata Club!*
 Call Club Secretary;
 Jim/Margie Newson: 801-295-4563




Be sure to get some "Tag a Miata" Cards from Mike Bailey at one of the meetings. Use this card to put on the windshield or drivers door window (sticking out of the rubber window seal) on a Miata that is not a club member that you see in a parking lot or elsewhere. Let them know about the club. Just write your name on the card and phone number if you like. It is a good way to let others know about our "cool" cars.

Referred by: _____



March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Luncheon KFC @ 11:30
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 	18
19	20 Spring Begins	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 4th: 11:30 Meeting and Lunch (KFC) 3900 S. State, SLC - Mike Bailey

April 1st: 11:30 Meeting and Lunch (Grannie Annie's Layton) – Lou Vredeveld

April 22nd: Rally Drive followed by lunch at Marie Calendar's 39th S. 1100 E. at 1:00 – Mike Bailey

May 6th: 11:30 Meeting and Lunch (TBD) – Steve and Kathy Nielsen - Johnson Canyon Drive?

May 20th: Pioneer Theater Will Rogers Play and Porcupine Dinner - Susan Vaughn

(Submitted and updated by Steve Beckstead)

June 3rd: 9:00 Breakfast and Meeting – Susan Vaughn

July 1st: 11:30 Meeting and Lunch (TBD) – Steve Beckstead – Drive TBD

July 8th to 26th: (Dates Vary) Viking Grand European River Cruise (Mike and Donn)

August 12th: 11:30 Meeting and BBQ (Mark and Susan's Patio). Monthly Meeting (Lou)

August 20th to 26th: Miatas at the Total Solar Eclipse (Lou Vredeveld)

September 9th: Summer Picnic (Morgan Park) Monthly Meeting (Lou Vredeveld) - 12:30pm

October 7th: 11:30 Meeting and Lunch (TBD-Mike Bailey) - Monthly Meeting (Lou)

October 28th: Halloween Party (Details TBA)

November 4th: 11:30 Meeting and Lunch (TBD-Mechlings) – Monthly Meeting (Lou)

December 9th: Holiday Christmas Party (Catered) - Mike and Lynn Bailey

March Luncheon & Meeting

Saturday, March 4, 2017 • 11:30 a.m.

Kentucky Fried Chicken Restaurant
 3890 South State Street
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
 801-266-4431

Our March Luncheon and Club Meeting will be March 4, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. at Harman's Kentucky Fried Chicken Café located at 3890 South State Street in Salt Lake City. It is on west side of the street on the corner. We will have the banquet room in the back reserved for our group. Ordering will be off the posted menu and they also feature an "all you can eat" buffet for \$9.49 per person (drinks excluded). We will have our monthly meeting at this time. Weather permitting we may go for a drive in our Miatas after lunch if it is a nice day and not storming.

This restaurant is the first and original Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in the world. It has been operating for over 64 years in this same location. It was started and opened on August 3, 1952 in a partnership between Pete Harman, a long-time local restaurateur who had operated cafes in Salt Lake before this. He met Colonel Harland Sanders at a Restaurant convention in Chicago and Pete invited him to visit Salt Lake. Pete planned to show Colonel Sanders the mountains and take him to dinner at Log Haven restaurant up Millcreek Canyon. Colonel Sanders did not want to do that but wanted them to taste his new fried chicken recipe with eleven herbs and spices in hopes that they would sell his chicken at their place, for a small price or fee. They agreed to do that and found the chicken to be "finger licking good" and the rest is history. This was the first KFC franchise restaurant in the world and now they are in every state and over 80 countries throughout the world. The recipe is still a secret.

Colonel Sanders died in 1980 at the age of 90 and the Harman's have retired to California and are in their 90's as well, but still own over 300 franchises and the KFC name. This is the only KFC in the world where they greet you with "Welcome to the World's first KFC".

Hope to see everyone at the March Luncheon and Meeting.



Club Rally for 2017

Saturday, April 22nd

by Mike Bailey

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 22nd as it will be the date of the Utah Miata Club Rally for 2017.

It is going on about four years since we did a Utah Club Auto Rally. The club used to do a rally every year back in the 'good ole days'. There are many different types of rallies that the club has done. They are not just racing rallies. In the past we have had various timed events in which there was a precise time and mileage and route for the rally and odometers were checked to the tenth of a mile. Some of those rallies were very close on the competition between members. Some rallies with specific routes had clues along the way featuring icons and landmarks to pick out and write down answers to specific questions. Turns were made at specific corners and junctions. We have had Autocross Rallies where we had to steer our Miatas between cones and other barriers along a specific path. Some of these were also timed events. Some rallies had us shooting basketball hoops from our Miatas or throwing rings around cones, etc. with challenging activities connected to them. We have had Poker Rallies where we drew the best poker card hands. We even tried a GPS rally once, which was not too popular and much harder to complete. We've done many rallies that involve a test with Miata related questions.

This year I have decided to keep it simple so we can get it done in a short amount of time and do one of the things we like to do best and that is to eat lunch somewhere. This year our Rally will be a Scavenger Hunt Rally, meaning that we will pick up various items from different places and collect these items in a bag. It will also involve answering questions about different places you will pass. There will be a time limit for the rally, but not a specific route, and low mileage will only be counted for as 'extra points'. The Rally will be in the Salt Lake Valley and driving time will be approximately 2.5 hours. There will be a series of questions on a sheet of paper of things to do. It is best to do this rally with two people in the Miata; a Driver and a co-pilot or Navigator, however it can be done alone. The navigator will read the questions to the driver and driver will proceed accordingly. Once all questions have been completed we will all meet at the destination point to have lunch and tally up the rally results.

We will start the rally at either our home in Cottonwood Heights or another designated place at 10:00 am. At this time the rally will be explained and a questionnaire sheet will be passed out to every couple. There will not be a specific order to answer the questions, so you will want to scan all the questions before heading out and make a plan together. Upon completion of the rally we will all meet at Marie Calendar's Restaurant at 1109 East 3900 South (across from St. Mark's Hospital) in Salt Lake. We will have either the back room (depending on number of participants) or a section of the restaurant reserved for us. You can order lunch while we tally the rally results. Cash Prizes will be given to the top three winners. The Loser, or Last Place Finisher will receive the coveted Red Lobster Award for them to keep at their home for an entire year to remind them how bad they were at doing the rally. You can keep the Red Lobster award on your fireplace mantle, office desk, or in some other significant place. David & Brenda Encheff has been the Red Lobster keeper since 2013 and not sure if they are happy or sad to give it up. The Red Lobster Award has been going around the Utah Miata Club for over 20 years. The dust has been cleaned off it and it has been updated a little.



Member Spotlight

by: Carol Lynn Vredevelde



Our spotlight couple for this month is David and Lisa Arellano. They are new members to the club and we are delighted to welcome them. They are the proud owners of a brand new 2017 Launch edition which will be the third one in our UTMC this year! It was great to meet them both at the election meeting and to see them again at our February luncheon.

I want to thank them both for participating in the spotlight article and telling us, in their own words, about the two of them and what influenced them to buy their new Miata.

Lisa and I had been looking at Miata's for about a year before we purchased our new 2017 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF / Launch Edition on December 29th of 2016. We were completely attracted to the new style hard top convertible. We first started liking the design of the 2016 models with the soft top, but then the hard top came out and we could no longer resist.

We became members in January of this year after the dealership called and told us



about the Utah Miata Club. We went to our first meeting to see the new leadership voted into office.

We have not always lived in the Utah area. I was born and raised in El Paso, Texas where I went to Eastwood High School. I lived in South Carolina, and Chicago, joined the Navy and trained as a nuclear reactor operator. I ended up in Virginia Beach, VA after my Navy career. I also attended Neumont University in Salt Lake City. I am currently a software engineer working on medical software.

Lisa was born in Amityville, New York where she lived until she was seven years

old and then moved to Orange County California for a few years. When she was ten years old, she moved to Virginia Beach, Virginia where she lived most of her life until 2012. Lisa went to Green Run High school in VA Beach. Besides living in New York and Virginia she has also lived in Florida. She is currently working as a financial planner for an online university.

We met at a mutual friend's musical gig. We both knew him because we both worked at Panasonic with him. We started dating May 2008 and married in March of 2014. We have one child who is out on her own already

We have a few favorite stories about our lives together. Lisa will tell you one of her favorite wedding stories as follows:



Spotlight - Continued

Only for this day did the wind calm down. The day before and after had strong winds. A backdrop of David's hometown with a flower arch hanging over us as we became a happily married couple will be a memory the both of us will treasure forever. So what if it's corny, deal.

I, David, am always getting Lisa to say "Daaaavid". Ha, I have such fun figuring out ways to get her to be shocked at the words coming out of my mouth.

This one time, Lisa called me the first time I let her drive my car. It was a Saturn Ion so nothing fancy. She couldn't get the key out of the ignition. When she called me, I could hear the tears in her eyes. She started explaining how she didn't do anything wrong and just parked the car. Then she took a deep breath and said how she couldn't get the key out of the ignition. She started saying how sorry she was but I had already experienced this problem before. I started giggling on the phone with her. I remember having a hard time trying to ask her if there was a large cup in the center console. She said yes, then I laughed some more. I explained to her that the car was not fully in park due to the drink being in the way of the gear shifter and that's why she couldn't pull the key out. I still laugh thinking about it.

I am a nerd in many regards. I am into video games, table top games, engineering. Together, Lisa and I enjoy being with friends and family the most. I suppose this year I'm focusing on getting back into working out and in the foreseeable future, I want to start playing the piano again.

Lisa is into photography, writing, baking, bowling, pool and hiking.

We both enjoy spending time with family and friends. We have such a broad network of friends that you can find us at a rock concert, hosting friends with food, hiking and then out for a road trip on the same weekend. Another weekend might be a less adventurous weekend and we'll go see a movie, visit with our friends around the valley, then visit family on Sunday for brunch and games.

Since we are basically brand new to the Miata Club, our best Miata event would have to be picking up the new Miata RF just as the year was coming to an end. We both enjoy driving the car and we are extremely excited to drive it with the top down in spring and summer.

We also really enjoy Mexican and Tex-Mex foods!

David and Lisa, I think you will be happy to know that many of the club members enjoy Mexican and Tex-Mex foods. It would be great to get some suggestions from you for future club luncheons. We're always looking for restaurants that offer great food and can accommodate large groups.

We are really looking forward to some awesome drives and events this year. If you were hoping to find a fun group of friends to share "top down drives" and new adventures with, you have certainly joined the right club!



February Luncheon Report

by Mike Bailey

February, as Lou said, was a real weird month with both nice warm weather at times and blistery cold with high winds and snow. The nice days made me long for the nice warm Spring weather to come. In fact Lynn and I took a drive on Valentine's Day (her day off work) in the Miata up to Midway, Charleston and down the canyon to Deer Creek and through Provo Canyon, for the long way home. The sky was blue, sun bright and was a real nice day. Almost good enough for top down driving but still a little cool up in the mountains on this trip (at least for Lynn). I know Gordy is itching to get out in his new RF Miata as he has told me this several times. He will need to get his driver's license back before he is able to drive, however. I've heard from many members that they are getting the 'bug' to get out in their Miatas. Many members put on the snow tires and drive theirs year round.

Our luncheon and meeting for February was real nice with a great turn out of members and a few new people. Richard Deland attended for the first time since he has been a member. He has actually been a member for almost a year now. He knows Mark Midgley. Either they work together or seem to be friends. We hope he likes the club and will come out more. He is into Miatas as I could tell from his nice miata graphics sweatshirt. Lisa and David Arellano who first came to the January Planning meeting also came to their first club luncheon. We welcome them to the club as well. You can read more about them from Carol Lynn's Member Spotlight article in this newsletter.

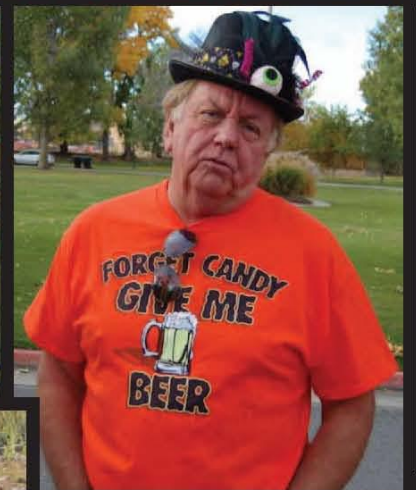
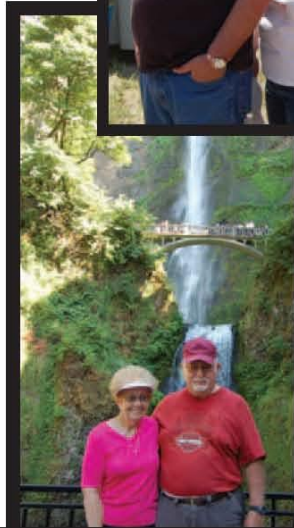
Probably some of the best news that I can report is that Gordy Nicholl was able to attend the luncheon and actually able to eat some real food. Gordy is doing real good now and seems to be getting his strength back. He has regular physical therapy now and seems to be more steady on his feet. We are excited for Gordy to get back to his normal self as he is improving at a dramatic rate. His doctors and physical therapists say he is doing amazingly well after such a tragic accident as he suffered. In the hospital while he was recovering he was continuously asking for a diet coke and other things to eat. I told him that I couldn't wait to go out to dinner with him and have a real steak (instead of all the food and nourishment he was getting through IV's, which wasn't real food). If you don't know it by now, Gordy is a real 'meat and potatoes' type of guy. I finally got the chance last weekend as we went to Longhorn for Lynn's birthday and he had a steak. He had to split a dinner with Jackie and his stomach filled up quickly and he couldn't eat it all, but it was great to experience that for me. To me, this was a real miracle to see him get somewhat back to normal and be able to eat a steak. I know he is aching to get back in a Miata and drive, or at least ride in his new car. We wish Gordy all the best and Jackie has had her plate full taking care of him and getting him back to his normal self. He is very determined to do that.



Candid Camera

by Mike Bailey

Candid Camera photos this month is a variety of shots from club Miata events in different years. The Cascade Springs ride up American Fork Canyon in 2015. Our group at Surf-n-Safari in Southern California in Oct. 2015, wearing our Thompson Automotive Miata shirts. Jim and Margie Newson on the Explore Oregon trip in July 2011 at Mulletonah Falls in Oregon. This was a very fun adventure for our group. Steve Beckstead on Crazy Hat Day in 2010. Hank Pond at the Miller Motorsports Park Speedway in 2013 with MazdaSpeed apparel that Dave Encheff's brother gave our group. Len and Shauna Millgate in 2004 on our trip to the Black Hills, South Dakota. Our group hike up Little Cottonwood Canyon in 2010 to Albion Basin. Lou & Carol Lynn Vredeveld and Dick and Judy Dyson at the Renaissance Fair in 2013.



JUST FOR FUN



Jeff Foxworthy, the Comedian, on what he has to say about Utahns "

If someone in a Home Depot store offers you assistance and they don't work there, you live in Utah.

If you've worn shorts and a parka at the same time, you live in Utah

If you've had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed the wrong number, you live in Utah.

If 'vacation' means going anywhere south of Salt Lake City for the weekend, you live in Utah.

If you measure distance in hours, you live in Utah.

If you know several people who have hit a deer more than once, you live in Utah.

If you have switched from 'heat' to 'A/C' and back again in the same day, you live in Utah.

If you install security lights on your house and garage but leave both unlocked, you live in Utah.

If you can drive 75 mph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard without flinching, you live in Utah.

If you design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit, you live in Utah.

If the speed limit on the highway is 75 mph -- you're going 80, and everyone is still passing you, you live in Utah.

If driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow, you live in Utah.

If you know all 4 seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter, and road construction, you live in Utah.

If you find 10 degrees 'a little chilly' you live in Utah.

If you actually understand these jokes and forward them to all your friends, you live in Utah."



OK, Show of hands...
Who's tired of snow?