



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



Inside This Issue

- From the Top DownPage 1
- November Meeting Info . . .Page 2
- Birthdays/Memberships . . Page 3
- October Meeting Report . . Page 4
- Fall Leaf Trip Report Page 5
- Member SpotlightPage 7
- New 2023 ChallengePage 7
- Fall Leaf 2023 Heads Up . . Page 8
- Holiday Party RSVP Info . . Page 9
- Calendar of EventsPage 9
- Candid CameraPage 10

From the Top Down By: Robert Mechling

Well, November got here, right on schedule. We've had some hard freezes and the gardens show it. I know we've all learned that there's nothing we can do to put it off, it's just time. I put things off as long as I could, but I hope that we all are ready for winter (it's here). Maybe we'll get lucky and get a warm spell - Just Hoping.

We had our first board meeting last month, where we discussed: 1) Mike's plans for Ghosts and Legends, January through October of 2023. Mike will tell us more about his plans between now then, and in his article in this newsletter. 2) Christmas Party Dec 3, 2022. I'll talk more about it at the club meeting on November 5, 2022. I'll need help setting up/cleaning up etc. Please also see the RSVP information on page 9 of this newsletter.

Thinking of Paul and Ann Kloer (lifetime members since 1992). Paul passed away Oct 2nd. This makes me remember when all new MX-5 Miatas were NAs. Thanks to Paul and Anne for their support over the years.

Hope to see all on November 5th!



November Monthly Meeting and Drive By: Mike Bailey

Date & Time: **Saturday, November 5th, 11:00AM** (1/2 hour earlier than normal)

Location: Chubby's Neighborhood Cafe

Address: 1276 W. 12600 S. Riverton, Ut. 84065

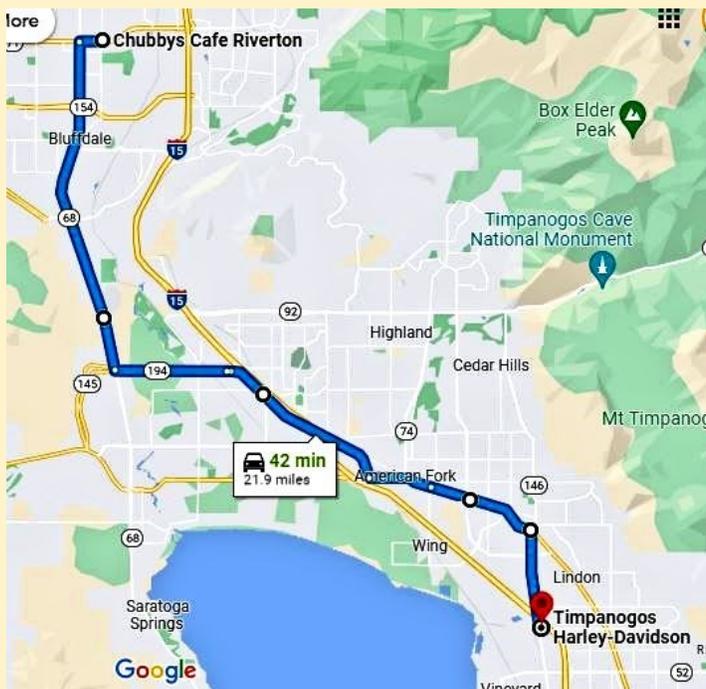


Information:

We will meet in the large north side room close to restrooms. Ordering off the menu.

Drive Destination:

Vanderhall Motor Works located at Timpanogos Harley Davidson at 555 S. Geneva Road, Lindon, Utah. Parking in front. Travel time is approximately 30 minutes and 20.9 miles. We will have a short information tour by either Chris or Ryan about the Vanderhall automobiles. You can also see the Harley's and other collectibles at the dealership.



The route I plan to take: Head south down Redwood Road (Hwy 68) through Bluffdale to Saratoga Springs and turn left (east) onto Hwy 194 eastbound (2100 North) in Lehi. Drive to W State Street Rd through American Fork and stay on same road to Pleasant Grove. In Pleasant Grove State St we take a turn south which turns onto South Main Street. This road then turns into S.1000

W. At 700 North the street name changes to Geneva Road. Keep heading south to 1600 N. in Lindon. Turn right and dealership is around the corner.

Stay as long as you want and drive ends here. You can make your own way back home.



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

NAME		
NONE		

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

NAME	EXPIRING
CHASE & BRITTNEY CHARLESWORTH	11/31/22
SCOTT HADLEY	11/31/22
JAMES & HILLARY VREDEVELD	11/31/22



NAME	DATE
JAN JAWORSKI	1 Nov
STEVE BECKSTEAD	2 Nov
MARGIE NEWSON	6 Nov
LARRY KNIGHT	10 Nov
STEVE OLSEN	11 Nov
DOYLE STURM	15 Nov
GEORGE CHASE	17 Nov
BOB RICHARDS	20 Nov
JIM NEWSON	25 Nov
AMY CHRISTOPHER	29 Nov
JOYE CARLSON	30 Nov

Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
JOSH & TANYA ASHMENT	7/31/2022
BENJAMIN BROWNLEE	7/31/2022
MARK & CHARISSE FURGUSON	7/31/2022
PAUL ZUPON	7/31/2022

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

NAME	EXPIRED
JERRY BILIANZICH	10/31/2022
DICK & JUDY DYSON	8/31/2022
DARIN & ELAINE GRABER	9/30/2022
KENT & DIANNA HOUSLEY	10/31/2022
MARK & SHAUNNA MIDGLEY	9/30/2022
ROGER NEWTON	10/31/2022
KRISTI SMITH	8/31/2022
KENNETH WAMSLEY	10/31/2022
TOM & PAMELA WHARRAM	9/30/2022
ROSEANN WHITAKER	10/31/2022
TYSON & TRACY YOUNG	8/31/2022

Club Officers (July 2022-July 2023)

President: Robert Mechling
Treasurer: Margie Newson

Vice President: Joey Fowler

Secretary: Jim Newson

Directors: Roger Heath, Ronda Beckstead, Susan Christiansen

October Meeting & Drive Report By: Valerie Francis

Only a week after the always fun Bryce / Capitol Reef Fall Leaf drive, the club headed out again in search of fall colors and exciting twisty roads. After our monthly lunch meeting at a park in Payson, we headed up Nebo Loop from north to south, which we have not done for several years.



Twenty two Miatas total were able to enjoy the nice sunny weather, the amazing scenery, and the almost traffic free route. The plan was to stop at the Devil's Kitchen pull out but as we approached, we saw that the parking area was totally filled with a motorcycle group, who were also out enjoying this great day and route. So we headed down a bit further to another pull out large enough for our group. This was our photo op stop and took a few minutes to visit.



After leaving Nebo Loop we had a pit stop in Nephi where a few cars left while the rest of the group headed through Mona, Goshen Canyon, and ending up at Rowley's Red Barn in Santaquin. The Red Barn was packed due to their Harvest Festival being in full swing, but there were still plenty of warm Apple Cider donuts to purchase along with delicious ice cream. After getting our ice cream, we sat outside in the sun enjoying it and each other's company before everyone heading home on their own.



Another great get together with our Miata Club friends (lunch, meeting, drive, ice cream treat) was completed!



Bryce / Capitol Reef Fall Leaf Trip Report

By: Mike Bailey

Our annual drive to Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef by way of scenic Highway 12 to Boulder and through Torrey was excellent as usual. We had a good turnout of 26 people with 13 Miatas. We missed several couples who usually go like Becksteads, Sturms, and Newsoms because of medical issues or some that had made alternate plans. Karen Christiansen did come to greet us all before we left Harmon's parking lot. One surprise is that Jim and Dorothy Bowers came all the way from Hawaii to be with us and drove their white NB Miata that they keep in Salt Lake valley for driving when they come to Utah. Us old timers who know them well certainly enjoyed visiting with them.



Val and Doyle couldn't make it as Val was ill, with Doyle becoming ill soon after, but she had planned the entire itinerary and route complete with maps so it made it easy for us to follow. We appreciate our UMC drive leaders and planners! It was pretty much the same trip as planned in previous years by Eric and Kathy Kankainen, only a change in the Sunday lunch plans and some roads on the way home. Roger took the lead which he has done many times this year.



We went back roads via Hwy132 to Salina for lunch at the park or Mom's Cafe, a local favorite! We followed Gooseberry Road to Fish Lake. It was very scenic!

We spent Friday evening in Bryce with a nice dinner at the Cowboy Steak House Restaurant in a private room to ourselves. Saturday we traveled through Bryce Canyon and back to Ruby's Inn around lunch time to head out on our drive through Escalante and up scenic Highway 12. They messed up on having our box lunches ready so it put us a little behind schedule, but no worry at all!



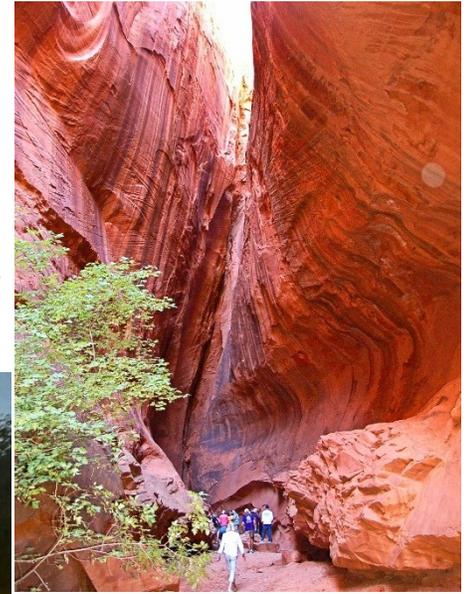
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At Boulder we headed east on the Burr Trail to almost the end of the paved road where we stopped at an overlook and then headed back, stopping at the famous "Singing Canyon" slot canyon to walk through it. I got some help from some of the guys to get me up and down the little hill to walk to the canyon with my cane. It's always a great photo spot!

From there we went to Torrey and checked into our hotels for the night's stay there, and a little rest before going to the Rim Rock Restaurant for a group dinner. After dinner as the sun was starting to set, we drove into Capitol Reef National Park for our drive there. It was very nice as usual and no storms or flash flooding as had happened a few days before. The sun shining on the white mountain sides made for great photos!



The next morning we headed home on back roads to catch the nice scenery. Hwy 72 was spectacular. We had lunch in Huntington with several options; at the park with bring your own lunch from Subway, etc. or Lamy's Mexican Restaurant, which had yummy food. Then home through Huntington Canyon and Fairfield Canyon, and from there several options to go back to Salt Lake Valley.



It was an awesome trip and lots of fun for everyone. Next year Roger Heath has a different spin on doing this drive and has posted it on the club's Facebook page (and in this newsletter) with more details to be provided early next year. Be sure to come if you have not done this trip as it is one of the best ones we do!





Member Spotlight By: Carol Lynn Vredeveld

Our spotlight couple this month is Scott and Cheryl Atkinson. It was a pleasure to get to know them on our recent trip to beautiful Bryce Canyon and Capital Reef. We couldn't have asked for better weather and the scenery is always nothing less than breathtaking on this drive. Scott said it was their favorite trip with the Miata Club so far! They both like the outdoors and enjoy traveling together so we are glad they chose to do some of their traveling with us! Welcome Scott and Cheryl and thanks for sharing some fun information about the two of you with your new Miata Club friends in the following article.

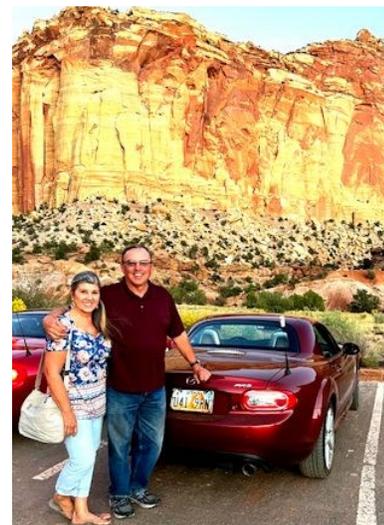


I look forward to lots more beautiful drives to come with Cheryl and Scott.

Cheryl and I currently own a 2010 Copper Mica Automatic PHRT. We purchased it in August of 2018; we finally realized that they had a PRHT and we were sold.

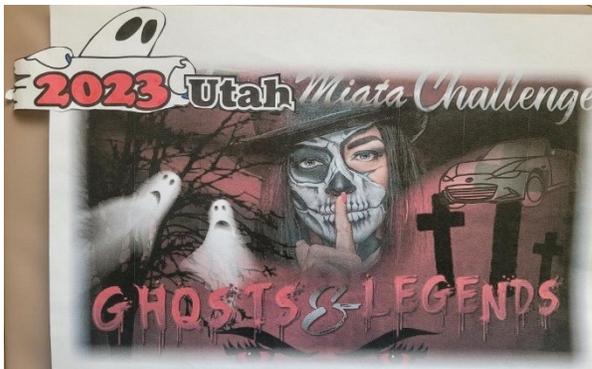
We both grew up in Southern California and moved to Utah in 1996. I went to a few years of Junior college. I have been a truck driver for 45 years in Southern California, Utah, and the western states. Cheryl has been a homemaker and has had a childcare business in our home for 12 years, and spent 9 years working in a bakery here in Utah. I first met Cheryl when I was dating her older sister and met her at their house.

I like most sports and participate in snow skiing, water skiing, tennis and golf. Cheryl and I love boating and traveling together. Our best trip in our Miata was a recent trip to Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef with the Miata club.



Utah Miata Club Challenge: Ghosts & Legends By: Mike Bailey

Starting in January 2023 the club will have a new *Utah Miata Club Challenge*. As with any Miata Club Challenge, there is a little work involved to accomplish the challenge, but it is also "FUN". The good thing about the challenge besides being fun, is that there are prizes to be awarded at the end of the challenge, as well as experiencing new places in your Miata that you may not have been to.



The **2023 Challenge** will be called "**Ghosts & Legends**". It will start at the beginning of the year, so you have a couple of months to do some research and google some of the places you'd like to drive your Miata to solve the challenge. Please let me know of any "ghostly" places you are interested in driving to. It will start January 1st and run through the 3rd week of October 2023. The details will be provided by the first part of the year.

Club members will drive their Miatas around Utah to various old "Ghost Towns" and take a photo of yourselves (a selfie) or a photo of one of you and your Miata in front of a sign, landmark, building or something like a mine shaft, in the old town to prove you were there. The person or couple who visits the most towns or landmarks during the challenge

will be the winners. We plan to have a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and possibly consolation prizes.

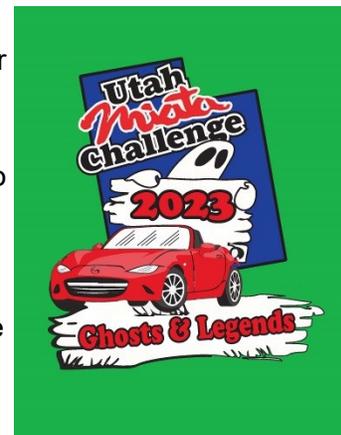
You can go as a couple, or several couples together, or a small group to do this. We may even plan a few group drives throughout the 2023 driving season to one or multiple "Challenge" ghost towns or places. More details about how to accomplish this task will be given at 2023 lunch meetings.

(Continued from page 7)

Most places are just off main roads but some may require a short poorly paved road, or could be dirt or gravel. You can choose which places you want to go. We may include other towns in bordering states for extra points.

Prizes for winners! Yes we will have prizes for the winners of this challenge including a few prizes provided by the club. We will also be making up some 'Ghosts & Legends' T-shirts to purchase. Maybe an Event Pin will be in the works! We want to make this a fun thing to do and get you excited about next year. The event logos shown here will be on shirts or a pin, etc.

Why do this, you ask? Well, it will be fun for starters. It will give some variety for us to drive to places in the state that we normally don't go to. You will be able to learn some history about your state and those who settled here, and why they started those towns. Plus, don't forget the chance to be with Miata friends and of course the shirts and prizes.



Fall Leaf Drive Heads Up, September 22—24, 2023! By: Roger Heath



Another fall leaf drive to Bryce Canyon and Torrey is over. The fall colors through Huntington Canyon and along Gooseberry Road didn't disappoint, weather was perfect and the traffic was light for the most part, and we did have the numerous RVs that made us drive a little saner. During our lunch stop in Huntington on the way home a few of us talked about switching it up next year, though not too drastic as Hwy 72 from Fremont to I-70 was a crowd favorite, as were the colors mentioned above.

Looking ahead to Sep 22nd - 24th, 2023 I will put together an event that will include 2 nights in Tropic. Going to Tropic and coming home will still include Huntington Canyon, Hwy 72, Fish Lake and Gooseberry Rd.

What changes? Gone will be the Saturday morning group drive into Bryce Canyon, the midday drive down the Burr Trail and the evening drive into Capitol Reef NP.

New - 2 nights in Tropic so you can unpack and relax a little. Saturday will be open for you to explore the area on your own or in a group that could include Kodachrome State Park, Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks and Panguitch Lake, or wherever you would like to explore.

There are a handful of places to stay in Tropic. A couple I would recommend are (5 minute walk between the two):

Bryce Country Cabins - Perly and I stayed here in 2020 for one night in a deluxe king cabin and loved it and will stay here again. Other options include individual cabins with 2 queens, double cabin with 2 rooms (queen beds and private bathrooms) and other cabins for multiple families that may want to split the cost. The good - nice grassy area to get together in the evening, fire pit, charcoal grills if you would prefer to eat in rather than out (Perly and I plan to grill out Saturday night), great view of the sunset over Bryce Canyon from the front porch and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument from the back deck of the deluxe king cabins. The bad - you are charged upfront for the entire stay and a 30% cancellation fee should you have to cancel.

Bryce Canyon Log Cabins - just slightly more expensive than Bryce Country Cabins though you can cancel without penalty. They have cabins with either 1 king or 2 queens.

Both locations are open for Sep 2023 reservations if you're ready to commit. Dates again are Sept 22—24th.

<https://www.brycecountrycabins.com>

<https://www.brycecanyonlogcabins.com>

Please note that the Panguitch Lake trip that was planned for July has been cancelled and replaced with this trip.



Holiday Party Reminder, December 3rd

RSVP by Monday, November 28th

Additional details will be in next month's newsletter but in the meantime, here's a heads up so you can put the Holiday Party on your calendar and **RSVP (required please)**. It will be held at the Sandy Lone Peak Park Pavilion (where we had it last year) 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Address is 10140 South 700 East, Sandy (Enter off 700 East for pavilion parking in front of the venue).

The dinner will be provided by the club and will be similar to last year; turkey, ham, scallop potatoes, rolls, soft drinks and water (no alcohol allowed), etc., with cake for dessert.

Please **RSVP** no later than **November 28th** to Margie or Jim Newson at: 801 295-4563 or email jnoose@icloud.com. (We will need a head count to order the food).

As always, we will have a "White Elephant" gift exchange. Please bring a gift for each person that would like to participate. This can be a funny gift, a recycled gift, or something you purchase. (\$30 or less per person).



2022 Calendar of Events



November 5th: (Chubbys in Riverton, 11:00 AM, Drive info refer to page 2. Mike and Lynn Bailey

December 3rd: Holiday Party (Sandy Lone Peak Park Pavilion, Time 6:00 PM) refer to page 9, Executive Board



2023 Calendar of Events



January 7th: Hill Air Museum (Time and location TBD) - need volunteer drive leader

February 4th: Farmington Wildlife Center, (Time and location TBD), Brian & Sue Christiansen

March 4th: This is the Place State Park (Time and location TBD) - need volunteer drive leader

April 1st: Kennecott mine tour (Time and location TBD), Mike & Lynn Bailey

May 6th: Preston / Bear Lake Loop (Time and location TBD), Roger & Perly Heath

June 3rd: (Drive, time location TBD) - need volunteer drive leader

July 8th: Picnic / Elections & Planning (Time and location TBD), Executive Board

July 13—16th: Willamette Valley Miata Club Explore Oregon, details on <http://www.oregonmx5.com/>

July 21-23 CANCELLED: Panguitch / Cedar Breaks, (Time and location TBD), Roger & Perly Heath

September 22-24: Fall Leaf Tour (Time and location TBD), refer to page 8, Roger & Perly Heath



Photos this month are some November birthdays, and Fall Leaf shenanigans.

