



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



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From the Top Down “Oh, the Places We’ll Go!” By: Valerie Francis, President

What a year 2019 has been! With the help and support of so many club members, we were able to drive to not only several familiar places but to also visit new sites too. This year, we enjoyed meals together, suffered through club meetings together, and experienced twisty roads, straight roads, and beautiful scenery together.

We crisscrossed the state on drives, then many were lucky to be part of the southern Colorado trip put together by Amy Beckstead, and many were lucky followers of Eric and Kathy Kankainen through the fall beauty of Bryce Canyon, The Burr Trail, Capital Reef, and other areas of central and southern Utah. What drives and events did you most enjoy in 2019?

I am also looking forward to 2020 as we already have several fantastic events planned, including Miatas in Moab VI and the Great Western Adventure 2. Be sure to come to our annual Election and Planning Meeting on January 18th to provide your ideas for our monthly drives (see details on page 2).

Closing out this year as President, I want to thank each of you for your support of me and of this club. Your friendship has been heartwarming, and your guidance immeasurable. I learned a lot about the club this year, most importantly that you, the members, are what makes this club so fun and enjoyable.

Finally to close out the Dr. Seuss theme: “Oh, the Places We Went in 2019” and “Oh, the Places We’ll Go in 2020”! My sincerest THANKS, Valerie



January Luncheon Meeting Information

Date & Time: Saturday, January 4, 2020, 11:30AM
Location: Red Robin Gourmet Burgers
Address: 316 E Winchester St, Murray, UT 84107
Phone: (801) 266-9410



We will meet in the private room and order off their regular menu.



After Meeting Drive Information

Weather permitting, and if there is interest, we can drive over to Wheeler Farm and walk around (no cost) or go for a hay ride (\$3.00 for adults). Address: 6351 S 900 E, Murray, UT 84121



Annual Election and Planning Meeting

Date & Time: Saturday, January 18th, 5:00 PM
Location: Bountiful Mazda
Address: 2815 S Main St, Bountiful, UT 84010
Phone: (801) 397-2277



Pizza will be provided by the Club. See information on page 3.

Feel free to bring a small dessert to share.
Bring drive ideas and a 2020 calendar!



Heads Up February Luncheon Meeting Information

Date & Time: Saturday, February 1st, 11:30AM
Location: Joy Luck Restaurant (Bountiful)
Address: 566 W 1350 S Woods Cross, UT 84010
Phone: 801-298-0388

We will meet in the private room and order off their special lunch menu.

After Meeting Drive Information: Polar Run!

Weather permitting, we will drive TOP DOWN 15 - 20 minutes to the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area (Eccles Wildlife Education Center) for the annual Utah Bald Eagle Day event. Details will be provided next month.



Annual Election and Planning Meeting Information And 2019 Year in Review

By: Valerie Francis



In preparation for the annual Election and Planning meeting on Saturday, January 18th, I wanted to provide some information here.

For the elections, we will be nominating and voting for the positions of President, Vice President, and two Directors. Jim and Margie Newson have already verbally agreed to be nominated as Secretary and Treasurer, so we will formalize their positions at the meeting.

During the election portion of the meeting the President will accept nominations of members from the floor for the positions noted above and contingent upon the nominee's acceptance. If you cannot attend the meeting you can cast a vote in the election of officers by submitting a signed ballot to the President prior to the meeting.

Roles and Responsibilities as listed on the Utahmiataclub.org website:

President -

Chief responsibility is Public Relations with Miata related sponsors and groups. Conducting monthly meetings and overseeing them. Making arrangements with restaurants for monthly club luncheon. Communicating with other club Officers to make sure they are on top of their assigned duties. Helping other officers if need be. Duty to write "From the Top Down" article for newsletter. Additionally, from the club Bylaws: Conducting Executive Board meetings as needed but at least once per calendar quarter.

Vice President / Event Coordinator—

Chief responsibility is to handle Public Relations on Club events. Coordinate, help members with, and plan club drives, activities and events. Keep event calendar up to date and get articles and information on activities to Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. Help President conduct club meetings and help other officers be on top of their assigned duties.

Directors (3 each) -

Past President assumes one of the Director's position. The other two are voted on by club members. Act as consultant or advisor for club operations and activities.

For the planning portion of the meeting, we will review the 2020 calendar and set dates for the monthly lunch meetings and other possible drives and events. This is where we will need your ideas, and volunteers to help coordinate these activities.

Just for fun, here is a quick lookback at the highlights of 2019 activities:

January: lunch only

February: Roots of Knowledge Stain Glass Windows at UVU

March: Crazy Hat Drive to Farmington Pond, Moab VI Recon

April: Legends Motorcycle Museum

May: Antelope Island (during bug season)

(Continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3)

June: Promontory Summit (150th anniversary of Golden Spike), Wasatch Back drive, Erickson Power Show in Wallsburg



July: Summer picnic at Murray Park, Cheryl Schaffer farewell Eden/ Powder Mountain/Huntsville, Mesa Verde/ Durango/Silverton trip



August: Guardsman/Wolf Creek Pass/ Apple Fritter drive, Monte Cristo Canyon/Bear Lake/ Alpine Wy/Idaho Falls trip



September: BBQ at Vaughns/Alpine Loop drive, Fall for New England trip, Texas Round-up, Bryce Canyon/Torrey trip



October: Goshen Canyon/Nebo Loop drive, Laguna Seca (Miata 30th Anniversary), Halloween party at Jaworski's



November: lunch only
Movie Ford vs Ferrari

December: Holiday Party,
Christmas in Color



Birthdays & Memberships

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

NAME	EXPIRING
ERIC & PAT ACHTER	1/31/2020
GEORGE & PATTY CHASE	1/31/2020
GARY & KATHY COLLINGS	1/31/2020
VALERIE FRANCIS	1/31/2020
DOYLE STURM	1/31/2020
KEN & JANET JAWORSKI	1/31/2020
ERIC & KATHY KANKAINEN	1/31/2020
SCOTTY MEDINE	1/31/2020
GORDON & JACKIE NICHOLL	1/31/2020
MICHAEL & MICHELE RIDING	1/31/2020

REMOVED FROM ROSTER

NAME	EXPIRED
MARK & SHAUNA MIDGLEY	9/30/2019

NEW MEMBERS

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
NONE		



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

NAME	EXPIRED
BRUCE BILODEAU	12/31/2019
JON & VICKIE DAY	11/30/2019
ROBERT FRANSSSEN	11/30/2019
EARL GREEN	12/31/2019
JOANN JACOBSON-WELLS	12/31/2019
JOE LEVERICH	12/31/2019
STEPHEN LOFTUS	12/31/2019
TYLER STARK	10/31/2019
DARWIN & LORI STEED	12/31/2019

NAME	BIRTHDAY
BRIA GERLACH	2 Jan
JOSH ASHMENT	3 Jan
TYLER BECKSTEAD	4 Jan
PAUL KLOER	12 Jan
PAMELA WHARRAM	16 Jan
RICHARD MACKERELL	24 Jan
EARL GREEN	26 Jan
ROGER HEATH	28 Jan
JACKIE NICHOLL	30 Jan

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. It is \$35 dual/\$25 single if you have the newsletter e-mailed to you, or \$45 if you would like a hard copy sent by standard mail.** You can also pay your dues online with PayPal on our website; www.utahmiataclub.org. This method is \$35 / \$25 (plus PayPal fees). 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.

Club Officers

President: Valerie Francis
 Vice President: Steve Beckstead
 Board Members: Mark Vaughn, Mike Bailey, Lou Vredevelde

Secretary: Jim Newson
 Treasurer: Margie Newson



December Holiday Party Report By: Mike Bailey

The Utah Miata Club's annual Holiday Christmas party was really excellent and at a new venue this year; making it very comfortable in a home atmosphere. Marilyn and Jim Bickley were the hosts of the party this year, in their very beautiful home in Daybreak in South Jordan.

We had a great turnout of around 50 people that I counted. It was a very festive atmosphere and many wore holiday and Christmas sweaters, hats and outfits. The turkey breasts were cooked by Lynn and the ham was prepared by Doyle, along with other main meal entries furnished by the club, along with sodas and water. We assigned items to go along with the main meal, and the desserts were provided by members. Thanks goes to everyone who contributed to cooking and making these food items. We had lots of food to go around and everyone really enjoyed the meal. We spent a lot of time socializing at different tables set up.

Then we highlighted the party with our White Elephant Gift Exchange. As usual, we had some great gifts this year. Lynn, Susan Vaughn and several others got their gifts stolen several times by others in the group. Susan got to the point where she didn't want anyone to take her gift again so she protected it. Amy Christopher tried taking it away from her and I think the highlight of the evening was when Amy blurted out "I don't care if I have to touch your boobs to get this away from you". We all had a good laugh over that one! We had a good time as we usually do as it is one of the best parties of the year.

We want sincerely to thank Jim and Marilyn for providing their home for the party. We are now looking forward to a 'Happy New Year' with lots of exciting things planned for 2020.



December Holiday Party Food (Slow Cooker Creamed Corn) By: Valerie Francis

Speaking of the Holiday party, I think we all agree that the food was delicious! Several members requested Sharon's corn recipe (which I made for Christmas Eve dinner) so here it is:

Ingredients:

- 3 (15.25 ounces) cans whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 8 ounces cream cheese, cubed
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, cut into thin slices

Directions:

1. Place corn in slow cooker. Stir in milk, sugar, and pepper until well combined. Without stirring, top with butter and cream cheese. Cover and cook on high heat for 2—3 hours.
2. Uncover and stir until butter and cream cheese are well combined. Cover and cook on high heat for an additional 15 minutes.
3. Serve immediately.



The recipe can be found at <https://damndelicious.net/2013/11/24/slow-cooker-creamed-corn/>

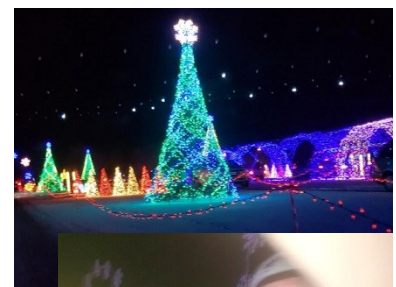


Christmas in Color By: Mike Bailey

Christmas in Color was a drive-through of a Holiday Light display at the South Jordan Equestrian Park. We met for dinner at the Astro Burger on Redwood Road and about 10500 South. It was also Dick Dyson's 79th birthday so we sang happy birthday to him. I think Lou bought him an ice cream sundae to celebrate. We had a good meal together and then headed for the event.



There was a mix of Miatas who went 'top down' for the drive through the lights, and several members with some of their family or friends went in SUV's or larger vehicles to accommodate more people—as they charged by the vehicle and not number of people. We put on our winter coats and the weather was quite nice and mild, despite the cold chill. We drove through rows and rows of fabulous lights with tunnels and holiday characters lighted along the way, and also with lighted triangular trees. We have been doing this for several years and it was fun to do again. We had a pretty good turnout of people coming to this.



We may try to do another Winter outdoor adventure this month at the Ice Castles in Midway, Utah. See the related article, and we will discuss this at our club luncheon.



Member Spotlight

By: Carol Lynn Vredeveld



*Our first spotlight of the New Year features a familiar face to most of you. She has attended drives and meetings as a friend of Karen Christiansen's. **Roseann Weber** is not new to us but is a brand new member and Miata owner as of recently. She had mentioned she was interested in trying to find a reasonably priced Miata over the last several months and she actually did just that with a little help from Mike Bailey! We are so happy that she joined the club officially with her beautiful blue 2016 GT MX5. She was invited by Karen to go on the trip to Italy and Miataland in the summer of 2020 and seems to really enjoy the club and its members. Roseann mentions in the article below a little more detail about her and her excitement for being a Miata owner.*



I recently purchased a Reflex Blue 2016, GT MX5. I do not have personalized plates yet, but plan to get one that says, RF2GRUP. It will mean Refuse to Grow Up...hopefully it will be available!

I got my Miata in October of 2019 after test driving several new and used ones hoping to find one with lower mileage, and fell in love the 2016 Reflex Blue Grand Touring Edition.

I first found out about the club because my friend Karen had asked me if I wanted to go to Italy with her and the Utah Miata Club in the summer of 2020. I had no idea that she owned a Miata, or there was even a Miata club. Karen invited me to go on a few rides with her as well and I got hooked! I thought it would be fun to be a part

of this adventurous group and decided to get a Miata of my own and become a member.

I have lived in Utah my entire life. I grew up in West Valley City and went to Granger High School. I have lived in the cities of Provo, Riverton, West Jordan and now in South Jordan.

I worked for the Postal Service for 17 years and numerous other jobs, but I am now retired!

I have 3 daughters and 4 grandkids and love spending time with them.

I also love to do machine embroidery, crafts, traveling, and take road trips.



It's pretty obvious that she loves her Miata by the big smile on her face in the photo next to the car. Roseann, we are very happy to welcome you officially into the club and we know we will certainly enjoy seeing you more often and look forward to including you on many of the Miata adventures to come..... and if you "Refuse To Grow Up", you have certainly joined the right group of folks!



Moab VI Recon Trip By: Susan Vaughn

A reminder to get your reservations made if you are going on this Miatas in Moab VI Recon trip:

The MIM VI committee wants to go down one last time before the rally to confirm the plans for April when all the guest arrive. If you are a drive leader or sweep this is a good time to drive your route and be familiar where you are going. We want to tie up any loose ends on this recon trip.

We are going the weekend of March 13-14, 2019. Red Cliffs Lodge is giving us a room rate of \$199.00. That is \$90.00 off the regular rate. Each person will need to make his or her own reservation. The phone number is 435-259-0952. You will need to tell them you are part of the Utah Miata Group to get this rate. Right now there are plenty of rooms so we do not have a block on hold. My recommendation is to get your room scheduled ASAP. This is the beginning of their busy season and rooms will begin to fill soon after the first of the year.



In January, we will discuss the drive down and get the trip planned.



Thompson Automotive 'NEW' Hawaiian Shirt By: Mike Bailey



Tom Thompson of **Thompson Automotive** has come out with a **"NEW" Hawaiian style Shirt for 2020**. This new shirt is similar to the first edition shirt he made with some of the same or similar images, however, it *features the ND, 4th Generation Miata MX-5* on it. It also has **Mazda's 30th Anniversary Racing Orange Miata** on it including the RF and ragtop versions. I also noticed what appeared to be a 2nd gen NB Lava Orange Miata on there, which was not on the first edition shirt (or so it appears, at least to me)! The shirts are available in Men's sizes right now in sizing of SM-2XL. Ladies sizes should be available sometime in the near future. This shirt seems to have a tan color background and the blue colors are not as bright as the previous shirt. At least this is how it appears to me. Maybe the previous shirt had more or brighter blue images. It does look a lot different than the original shirt but you will like it just the same.



ors are not as bright as the previous shirt. At least this is how it appears to me. Maybe the previous shirt had more or brighter blue images. It does look a lot different than the original shirt but you will like it just the same.

The cost of the shirt is \$61.95 (the 2XL is \$63.95). You can go to Tom's website: www.thompson-automotive.com to order the shirts. Just click on the 'Shirt' button to take you there and you will find all the details. If several of you want to order at the same time, it will save on shipping costs as he can ship them to one address and you can split the shipping cost. Tom also has lots of other Miata products for sale on his website so check it out! Gordy and I will be wearing the new shirt at the January luncheon so you can see what it looks like. I think you will want one!



Ice Castles in Midway Event By: Mike Bailey

Ice Castles is once again being featured as a Winter activity in Midway, Utah. We went here many years ago with some club members and had planned to do this the last two years but because of the weather warming up they had to close it down earlier than expected. We would like to plan another outing to do this in January. We will talk about this at the January luncheon meeting and see if there are some members who want to do this. It is amazing if you have never seen it before. It is only available in a handful of places across the country. One is in New Hampshire so some of our east coast members like the Cichocki's and Chase's could go to the one they have there. The Ice Castles feature Frozen Thrones, Ice Sculptures and Ice Carvings, Ice Tunnels, slides and fountains.



There is an option of going mid-week, saving a few dollars, and with less crowds than on the weekend days like Friday or Saturday. I personally think it is best when it is dark with all the beautiful lights. We could plan to go and maybe have an early dinner at the Corner Café in Midway (*or after the Ice Castles if preferred). Either plan would work. The cost for this during weekdays is \$13.99 / adult person and \$9.99 for children. Weekends prices go up to \$17.99 & \$11.99 respectively. Once we select a date you would have to go online to purchase tickets at <http://icecastles.com>. Phone for information is 866-435-2850.



Arsenic and Old Lace Play By: Steve Beckstead

So mine and Valerie Francis' favorite play is being put on by the Sandy Arts Guild. Over the years, the Miata club has attended several of their plays, and they are always well done and a lot of fun. **We have picked Friday night, Feb 7th to go to this.** Everyone is welcome! Tickets are on sale now so don't delay in getting yours (information below) . A dinner beforehand is TBD, possibly a quick stop at Crown Burger or Sizzler. We will discuss this at the January meeting and add new info to next months newsletter. We hope you can join the fun!



Arsenic and Old Lace

The Theater at Mount Jordan

Fri
07 Feb 2020 | 7:30 pm

Ticket Pricing
Adults: \$12; Senior (65+)/Youth (3-18): \$10

Description
The Sandy Arts Guild presents their Winter Comedy: Arsenic and Old Lace January 31-February 15 at The Theater at Mount Jordan. "You'll love this to death!"

Special Information
All seats are general admission.



Great Western Adventure 2 (GWA2) - With/ Explore Oregon

July 12th thru July 23rd 2020 By: Lou Vredeveld

Great Western Adventure 2

July 12 - 23rd
2020



The Adventure has been planned, the Dates have been set and the Hotels reserved. This eleven day adventure is destined to be an unforgettable Bucket List Trip that will be talked about for years to come.

It will take us through 7 states and include a three day Explore Oregon event hosted by the Willamette Oregon Miata Club. We will visit areas and drive scenic roads many of us have not enjoyed before. From the amazing Yellowstone Park to the forests of Idaho and the coastal roads of Oregon, every day will bring a new Adventure. Our daily destinations will be Thermopolis Wyoming, Cody Wyoming, Butte Montana, Clarkston Washington, Mount Hood Village Oregon, Coos Bay Oregon, Gold Beach Oregon, Chico California and Reno Nevada.

To date we have 13 cars signed up for the GWA2. There are some, due to time constraints, that will be joining us at Mount Hood Village Oregon on July 16th for the 3 day Explore Oregon event only. Also a few that will be leaving the group early to go a different direction home.



2019 Calendar of Events



2020 Monthly Lunch Meeting Schedule and Additional Drives/Events:

- Jan 4th:** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Red Robin in Murray) - Valerie and Doyle
- Jan 18th:** Election and Planning meeting (5:00 pm, Bountiful Mazda) - Valerie Francis
- Feb 1st:** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Joy Luck in Bountiful) – Valerie and Doyle
- Feb 7th:** Play “Arsenic and Old Lace” - Steve Beckstead
- March 13—15:** Miatas in Moab Recon—Mark and Susan Vaughn
- April 30th:** Miatas in Moab VI —Mark Vaughn
- July 12th-23rd:** Great Western Adventure (combined with Explore Oregon) --- Lou Vredeveld
- July 16th-19th:** Explore Oregon 2020 (combined with GWA) --- Willamette Valley Miata Club
(www.oregonmx5.com)

Canada’s Capital Miata Meet—2020 (August 13—16, 2020) - <http://ottawamiata.net>

Miataland Italy (August 20—Sept 2, 2020) —Mike Bailey, Karen Christiansen


Buggies & Bridges III (Sept 24—27, 2020) Refer to www.pacemiataclub.org - Pace Miata Club



Candid Camera

By Mike Bailey

This month's Candid Camera are photos taken at the annual holiday Christmas party.



**SMILE
YOU'RE
ON
CANDID
CAMERA**

