

RAGTOPS TO RIDGES



APRIL 2017

"THE CONVERTIBLE CHRONICLES OF THE UTAH MIATA CLUB"



From the Top Down

Presidents Message

Submitted by: Lou Vredeveld

Here we go Zooming into 2017, our 26th year as a Miata Club!

HELLO SPRING TIME (I think). It is about time for top down weather. Not that we did not get some in March, but wow what a month, we definitely live in Utah. Is it just me or did we really just have all four seasons in one month? From snow and cold to sun and 80 degree temperatures in a matter of a few days. We however

did get lucky and had good weather for our March luncheon at KFC, as was evident by one of the largest member turn outs that I can remember. Forty-eight club members were able to attend the luncheon and 15 cars went on the drive afterwards. The drive, lead by Jim Newson went all the way around the Oquirrh Mountains, through Cedar Fort to Stockton and on to Tooele then back to Salt Lake. The round trip was just over 100 miles and I noticed that almost everyone had top down smiles along the way.

April is starting out with our luncheon at Granny Annie's in Kaysville. They have great home style cooking and the scones should not be missed. With the unpredictable weather and our mountain tops covered in snow a trip out to Antelope Island seems like a nice close drive option. Make sure that you keep an eye on the speed limit on the island however as the Rangers love to give out speeding tickets. Isn't that right Mike? We will let him tell you about that adventure. Our May luncheon, thanks to Steve and Kathy Nielsen, will be held in Tooele.



www.utahmiataclub.org

From the Top Down
Birthdays/New Members
Luncheon & Drive
Club Rally For 2017
Solar Eclipse

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We will be trying out a new venue this time, "Pins and Ales," a Restaurant located in the All Star bowling lanes. They have plenty of room and a large selection of food to choose from. The restaurant is a 21 years and older facility as they are a part of Bonneville Brewery. The drive after lunch will be to Johnson Pass; many of us remember this drive from past years and know how fun the mountain road leading to the pass is. Again I want to invite everyone to check out the club website www.utahmiataclub.org. Most all of the club events and news is easily accessible on line. Doyle is constantly updating and posting to the site. Our Miata friends from all over the country are following us on the UMC site, as is evident by the hundreds of visits we get from all over the country each month. I would like to extend a special thanks to all our members that help make this club enjoyable by volunteering to plan events, lead drives, and offer their time to make this one of the best clubs around.



**HOPPY
EASTER**



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 Vredeveld

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Steve Beckstead

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Jim Newson

Treasurer:
Margie Newson

Directors:
Mike Bailey, Spence Wood, Doyle Sturm

Newsletter Editor:
Crystal Miller

Webmaster:
Doyle Sturm





NEW MEMBERS

- Cheryl Schaefer** 2007 Stormy Blue
 (Cheryl was a previous member for several years)
- David R. Christensen** 1992 Green Miata
- Gaston Cizinsky** Galaxy Grey

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

EXPIRING SOON

NAME	DATE
KAY BARRELL	4/30/2017
ERNEST & NANCY BENTLEY	4/30/2017
CATHY CORDILL	4/30/2017
MICHAEL & FRANCES HUTTON	4/30/2017
BRADLEY LOWE	4/30/2017
LARRY & KATHY PETERSEN	4/30/2017
DAVE & ANA PORTER	4/30/2017
RICHARD TEASDALE	4/30/2017

REMOVED FROM ROSTER

KEN DODGE

NAME	DATE
MICHAEL HUTTON	4 Apr
DOUGLAS KLUENDER	8 Apr
CHARISSE FERGUSON	10 Apr
WILLY GERLACH	11 Apr
LAUREL DRYSDALE	12 Apr
SUSAN VAUGHN	14 Apr
JOE LEVERICH	16 Apr
MARK FERGUSON	19 Apr
GARY COLLINGS	21 Apr
BRADLEY LOWE	24 Apr
ANNETTE NIELSEN	24 Apr
SHARON MECHLING	25 Apr
DANIEL MITCHELL	25 Apr
TERI BLACK	27 Apr
LOU VREDEVELD	30 Apr

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



EXPIRING MEMBERSHIPS

NAME	DATE
BILL & JANET ANDERSON	3/31/2017
RICHARD DELAND	3/31/2017
FRANK & VICKY HOUSER	3/31/2017
CHRIS & MICHELLE MAYFIELD	2/28/2017
ROBERT & SHARON MECHLING	3/31/2017
ANNETTE NIELSEN	3/31/2017
DAVE & CAROLYN SHARETTE	2/28/2017
RICH & NANCY SINGER	3/31/2017
AARON & JALAE THOMPSON	2/28/2017
JIM & PAT VAUGHN	1/31/2017

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.



APRIL 1ST LUNCHEON

Submitted by Lou & Carol Lynn Vredevel

Our April Luncheon and Meeting will be held at
Granny Annie's in Kaysville at 11:30 a.m.
286 North 400 West (801) 544-8812

We have gathered here in the past and have
always enjoyed the food and service.



JOIN THE GROUP FOR A RIDE AFTER LUNCH

Destination: Antelope Island State Park

Weather Permitting we will take a drive even though
the mountains may still be covered in snow it will be fun!



Park Fees are \$10.00 per car or \$5.00 if driver is over 62





Club Rally for 2017

Saturday, April 22nd

Time: 10:00 a.m.

by Mike Bailey

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 if you are a Single participant. 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 meet at Marie Calendar's at 1:00 p.m. for lunch.

We will start the rally at the Bailey home in Cottonwood Heights at **10:00 am. Address is 1919 East Brighton Ridge Drive (7325 South) 84121** zip code. 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 as driver and navigator. 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 fire-place mantle, office desk, or in some other significant place. 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. We are hoping to have a good time at this year's rally, so please join us as it will be lots of fun. **ZOOM - ZOOM**



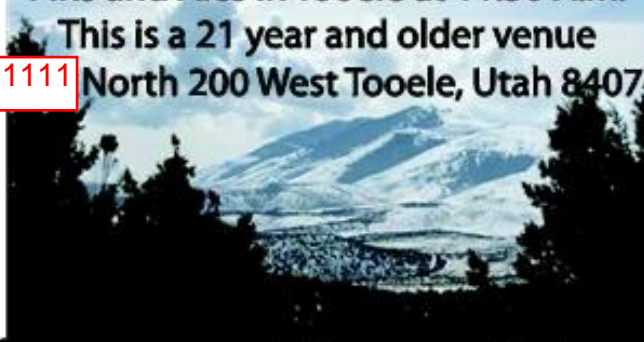
MAY 6TH LUNCHEON

Submitted by Steve and Kathy Nielsen
 Our May Luncheon and Meeting will be held at:
 Pins and Ales in Tooele at 11:30 A.M.



PINS & ALES
 RESTAURANT NIGHTCLUB

This is a 21 year and older venue
 1111 North 200 West Tooele, Utah 84074



AFTER LUNCH DRIVE TO JOHNSON PASS
 This is a great canyon road drive on
 SR199 from the Rush Valley
 Those interested can continue on to
 Dugway then North to I-80



Solar Eclipse Viewing Option Submitted by Susan Vaughn August 2017

The UMC under the direction of Lou Vredeveld is planning a trip to view the solar eclipse in August (MATSE, August 20-26, 2017). Not all members of the club will be able to enjoy the trip he has planned so well. Mark and Susan Vaughn, Steve and Kathy Nielsen are some. So, the next best thing is to plan a short trip to Idaho and enjoy viewing the eclipse in Rex... We will have the opportunity to see the eclipse in totality. We are driving up on the 19th and will have a couple of days in Pocatello and drive up to Rex... the morning of the eclipse. We are planning to join the party in the Local Wal Mart parking lot. We will have access to food, drinks and bathroom facilities. Everyone is welcome to join our little group. We have had reservations for a long time and the rooms are getting tight. You would need to talk with the hotels directly. Recently I saw rooms are available but are getting pricy. The drive could even be made the morning of the eclipse if you did not want to stay the night. This is another opportunity to get your Miata out on the road for those who will not be traveling with main group that Lou is taking. Keep ZOOMING.....

Rexburg

Member Spotlight

by: Carol Lynn Vredeveld

David Christensen is our spotlight person this month. He initially joined the club several years ago but hadn't really been an active member. He recently decided it was time to get serious about driving his Miata and attending club meetings, but most importantly, participating in the drives. He and his brother Ron came to the March luncheon at KFC, then joined us for our beautiful "top down" drive afterwards and said they both really enjoyed it. David says that although this article features him and his Miata that Ron is the one with all the Miata stories. Ron has actually raced Miata's in the past and was involved with the club back in the '90's. I can tell already we will really enjoy getting to know them both and hearing more about their adventures. David will tell us his story below and Ron will continue the story in next month's spotlight article. (There's not enough space to put it all in this month!)

My car is a 1993 Mazda Miata in British Racing Green.

I got my Miata back in February of 2012. The idea was to purchase a body kit and customize it but I decided to just do a little restoration and customizing on it instead. I updated the turn signals, tail lights, grill and wheels with aftermarket products and got a new set of tires. I did some minor body work and took it to Maaco to get it painted authentic BRG color...they did a nice job. I got a new top online and had Alex Upholstery in Brigham City install it. I got a tonneau cover for it online. It was a one owner car owned by the proverbial old lady school teacher who had babied it through the years...the performance was like new. My brother Ron said it ran better than his Miata Race car! It had a little valve ticking but Ron took it out with Rislone and cured that problem. It currently has a little squeaking up front somewhere but I haven't investigated that yet.

I found out about the Miata club from my brother, Ron, who raced a Miata to second place at Road Atlanta SCCA National Championships. I went online and joined a few years ago but I wasn't actively involved. Recently I decided to get serious about driving, went to the March luncheon with my brother, Ron, rejoined the club and went on the drive afterwards. Looking forward to the April 1 drive to Antelope Island (April Fool's?) and getting the nice jacket I ordered.

I was born in Oakland, CA, but we left there when I was 10 months old. My Dad wanted to go into service station management so after my parents were married they took a honeymoon trip to Oakland where he had a management training position with Standard Stations waiting for him. They got homesick after a couple of years and moved back to Salt Lake where we lived until I was 12 years. Dad then leased a new Flying "A" station in Wendover. I went to 6th grade and Junior High in Wendover but there was no high school so I went to live with my Grandmother in Salt Lake and went to East High where I graduated and went on to the U of U. The family moved to Salt Lake when I was at East and my Dad leased the new Texaco on 24th South and State. Ron and I worked summers and part time for my Dad at both the Flying "A" and Texaco stations.

I received a BSME degree from the U of U and moved to Seattle to work for Boeing. While in Seattle I joined the Stevens Pass Ski patrol and was an assistant instructor in the UW basic climbing class, met some climbing partners and did many climbs in Washington. I climbed Mt. Rainier three times. The most interesting route was the Nisqually Icefall. Boeing reduced their work force in about 1972 and I was eventually laid off but



stayed in Seattle for a year climbing and ski patrolling. Next I moved to Denver to work for Stanley Aviation on aircraft escape systems and decided it was time to learn to fly, so I bought a Cessna 150, found an instructor, got my license and became an avid pilot.

My Dad passed away while I was living in Denver at age 57. I used the 150 to visit Salt Lake many times. Finally I got interested in RC flying and lent my 150 to my brother, Ron, in Salt Lake and he got his license with it. I did some RC contest flying at that time and won some prizes. When Stanley Aviation started having problems I moved back to Salt Lake and lived with my mother for a couple of years. I decided to buy a home built airplane project, an EAA Acrosport, and with Ron's help, brought it to Salt Lake, built a shed next to my Mother's garage and got it almost finished when my Mother found a classified ad for a liaison engineering job at Thiokol in Brigham. I got the job and built a house in Brigham so I had a place to work on the Acrosport. The house was a Capp Home where they put in the foundation and structure, closed it in, delivered materials and you did the rest yourself or hired contractors. In 1982 I finished the plane and test flew it at the Ogden Airport. It flew great! I still own that plane and two others I subsequently built which I keep in my hangar at the Brigham Airport.



I am currently retired. I don't have a significant other, but I had a cat for 11 years that I had picked up off the road after he was hit by a car. He died last year of feline infective peritonitis at age 13. I have a niece and two Great Nephews in the Chicago area and a Nephew and my brother Ron here in Utah.

I enjoy camping, skiing, fishing, boating, hiking, traveling, and road trips. I built a 14 ft sailboat a couple of years ago and sail it in Willard Bay. I have three homebuilt airplanes I have built over the years, the Acrosport biplane, a KR-2 and a Mirage Marathon which I fly regularly. I have ordered another airplane kit, an SPA Panther which is all metal, a new building experience for me. As well as the Miata, I have a 1973 MGB, my Mother's Mazda 626 and a Subaru Outback, a 1975 Honda 750, a 1959 Harley 165 ST Hummer which I restored, a Yamaha TW250 dirt bike, and a Suzuki 4 wheeler. Too many toys, too little time!

My brother Ron has all the Miata stories from his racing years! (to be continued next month).

David said that they really enjoy taking photos and plan on sharing them with the club...It's always fun to have new enthusiastic members that really appreciate the whole experience of driving their Miata's while enjoying all the beautiful scenery along the way.



UTAH MIATA CLUB WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

8 Days: February 25 - March 4, 2018

Itinerary:

Day 1: Galveston, Texas Port
 Day 2: Day at Sea Cruising
 Day 3: Cozumel, Mexico
 Day 4: George Town, Grand Cayman
 Day 5: Falmouth, Jamaica
 Day 6: Day at Sea Cruising
 Day 7: Day at Sea Cruising
 Day 8: Galveston, Texas



Join us for an exciting **8 day cruise to the Western Caribbean on the Liberty of the Seas, Royal Caribbean Freedom Class Ship**. *Invite your family and friends to join our Utah Miata Club Group. Everyone is welcome.* The cruise leaves from the port of Galveston, Texas. You will probably want to get into Galveston a day early to enjoy the city and exciting things to do and also in case of flight delays. I'm working with a friend of mine who used to own a travel agency and he has made arrangements for some good pricing on this ship. We have some cabin blocks reserved for our group at discounted prices as follows:

Category N: Inside Cabins starting at \$349.00 per person. **Category PR:** Inside Cabins with view to the Promenade at \$419.00 per person. **Category I:** Outside Cabins with window starting at \$439.00 per person. **Category D3:** Outside Cabins with Balcony starting at \$679.00 per person. **Category D2:** Outside Cabins with Balcony starting at \$689.00 per person. **Category E1:** Deluxe Outside Cabins with Balcony at \$759.00 per person. Larger cabins are currently available and cabins with 3rd and 4th person in cabin is available. Price above do not include Port Fees of \$190.00 per person and taxes are \$81.70 per person. **Prices subject to change, so please book early. Prices will increase over time.** Check Royal Caribbean website for Deck Plan and details.

If you book now and other cruise promotions come available you will qualify for them. Also you can get other discounts for your "*Crown & Anchor*" Membership, depending on the category you have. **Deposit for this cruise is \$250.00 per person.** Deposit is refundable if you have to cancel 90 days prior to sailing date. Full payment is required about 4-5 months out. You will be notified on this. To book email or call **Darryl Broadhead** at darrylbf@xmission.com. Phone or Text: 801-358-7552. You can contact Darryl with any questions or concerns. He will need to know Full Legal Name, and Age of all passengers and your contact information. Get on the list to go: Also please email and "cc" **Mike Bailey** if you intend to go at mike@mikebaileyprinting.com. Phone: 801-597-1456. We will let you know about the Airfare when it becomes available or you can book your own anytime.

Candid Camera

by Mike Bailey

Group photo is at our July 4th 2012 drive up to Mirror Lake Highway, which has been a regular event we do each year, but not usually a regular UMC event, but anyone is welcome to come. In center of photo the guy in shorts and a western straw hat next to the Kisers' is John Darin, who was also from Midway like the Kisers. John passed away several years ago and we miss having him in the club. Teri and Spence we have the Steeds at Le Beau's with their Raspberry Shakes from Sept. 2016. The Beckstead girls, Ronda and Amy. Susan and granddaughter Ainsley at a luncheon, note Ainsley's cute grin and smile. Gordy and Jackie of course with Jim and Margie, Robert and Sharon and couldn't resist the one of Lynn and me. (sometimes we take cute photos). All these photos taken at the Spring Chicken Inn in Morgan on a drive from last July. We also have Eric Achter with his Silver Miata which dates to Sept. 2011.



JUST FOR FUN



EMAIL: hpayne@satnews.com

"Two-car garage."



corp.08 America1.com