



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



Bald Mountain Pass on Mirror Lake Hwy. July 4, 2011

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From The Top Down by Robert Mechling

Let's make a winter memory, without mosquitoes. Our February Luncheon at Joy Luck Restaurant (Woods Cross) and drive to the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area should fulfill that requirement. It's a beautiful spot to see birds all year long. But every year, thousands of Bald Eagles migrate south from Alaska and Canada to winter in northern Utah, from November through March, and Farmington Bay is one of their favorite places to hang out. Yes - Farmington Bay is a big place (18,000 acres) but there's a chance we could see Bald Eagles. **So Bring your binoculars and dress warm.** Here's hoping for decent winter weather. If the weather is bad, we may need to drive a support vehicle.

Good news - Groundhog Day (February 2nd) marks the halfway point, between the Winter Solstice, and the Spring Equinox. Here's hoping that Spring arrives on schedule!

Does anybody know how Woods Cross got it's name? Ask me at the meeting to tell the story I heard.

Stay Warm, Robert



February Meeting & Destination Drive; George S. & Dolores Eccles Wildlife Center



THE GEORGE S. & DOLORES DORÉ
ECCLES WILDLIFE
EDUCATION CENTER
— at —
FARMINGTON BAY

Date & Time: Saturday, February 4th, 11:30 AM

Location: Joy Luck Restaurant

Address: 566 West 1350 South, Woods Cross, Utah 84010

Drive Destination: The George S. and Delores Eccles Wildlife Education Center.

1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah

Drive Information: Weather permitting, we will line up after lunch on 1350 South heading East. Take a left turn onto 500 West (Highway 89) heading North. We will continue north through the light at 500 South. Get in the right lane. Turn right on 400 North heading east. Follow 400 North as it curves to Main Street. Continue heading north on Main Street to Glover’s Lane (925 South, Farmington). We will turn left heading west on Glover’s Lane to Waterfowl Way. The George S. and Dolores Eccles Wildlife Education Center is located at 1157 South Waterfowl Way in Farmington. The Center has a scenic, 1.6 mile nature trail loop. Meander the wheelchair and stroller friendly trail to experience the unique sights and sounds of the Farmington Bay wetlands. There are also rest rooms at the Center. Haley Pace is the program specialist at the Center. We may see some eagles so bring your binoculars!



Hope to See you there!



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	YEAR	COLOR
KEN & BELINDA FIERRO	2022	RED RF
MARSHAL FOSTER	2023	WHITE RF

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

NAME	EXPIRING
TOM & CAROLINE BRACKEN	2/28/2023
TODD & AMY CHRISTOPHER	2/28/2023
STEVE & KATHY NIELSEN	2/28/2023



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

NAME	EXPIRED
CHASE & BRITTNEY CHARLESWORTH	11/31/22
JALAAL DIRBAS	12/31/2022
CHRIS & LINDA LEWIS	1/31/2023
SCOTTY MEDINE	1/31/2023

NAME	DATE
KAY BARRELL	4 Feb
JOANN JACOBSON-WELLS	13 Feb
SABRINA HANSEN	18 Feb
CHARLINE PETERSEN	21 Feb
ROBERT FACKRELL	23 Feb
ANN KLOER	23 Feb
LYNN BAILEY	25 Feb
ASHLEY HEADEY	26 Feb
MARK VAUGHN	28 Feb

Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
JERRY BILIAZICH	10/31/2022
KENNETH WHAMSLEY	10/31/2022



Club Officers (July 2022-July 2023)

President: Robert Mechling Vice President: Joey Fowler Secretary: Jim Newson Treasurer: Margie Newson
 Directors: Roger Heath, Ronda Beckstead, Susan Christiansen Newsletter Editor: Mike Bailey

January Meeting & Drive Report By: Valerie Francis

We started off the new year and new adventures with a great lunch meeting, then a short drive over to the Hill Aerospace Museum. What an exciting place to visit during our cold winter months and a wonderful way to start the new year!

Almost 50 members showed up at the Star Café in Clearfield where we squished everyone in and enjoyed a good lunch. The service was fast considering our large group and my lunch was delicious, so I hope everyone else enjoyed theirs too. Robert conducted the meeting with the usual topics, but we also learned about two new events you can read about in this newsletter, on our web site, and on our private Facebook page (Beartooth Highway Roadtrip in July and a play at the Grand Theatre in February).

After lunch we each headed to the Hill Aerospace Museum where we regrouped for a personalized tour. As we were waiting for everyone to arrive, we walked through the Utah Aviation Hall of Fame and viewed the video of our member Kim Davis Richardson's father (Colonel E.S. "Cyclone" Davis). What an amazing history he had in service to our country.

Then we broke into two groups to go through the museum. A huge thanks to Ken Jaworski for setting up the tours with the docents. It's been a few years since the club has been here, so I was surprised at how large the museum was. Per our docent, it is the 3rd largest Airforce Air Museum in the country and will be 2nd largest once a third building is opened.



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I learned a lot from the docent about the planes including my favorite plane the SR-71 Blackbird (too much to cover here), but I found it especially fun to hear Ken talk about his experiences flying the F111, and Kim tell us a few stories about her dad and the planes he flew. Wow! - and thanks to Ken and Kim for sharing their memories and stories!



Everyone left the museum and headed home at their own pace after experiencing another great Utah Miata Club adventure. Thanks again to everyone who planned the lunch location and the docents!



Anniversary Pins By: Mike Bailey

This month I will be distributing the Anniversary Pins for all UMC members who will be celebrating a 3rd, 5th, 10th, 15th, or Lifetime Member status which includes 20 continuous years or more as a member of the Utah Miata Club. This program has been going on since 2015 and initially was designed to last 5 years. In 2020 the club decided to keep doing and paying for this program by popular demand. As far as I know, no other Miata club in the country has Anniversary pins that they give to their club members. At a couple Regional Miata events, the last one I attended last year for Explore Oregon, I was wearing a hat of mine with my Lifetime Anniversary pin on it, and someone asked if they could buy one from me to put in their pin collection. I told them "no" as it was not for sale and that we did not trade these pins either. They have been good conversation piece with out-of-state club members. Our first set of pins we had a 20 and 25 year pin, but changed it to a 'Lifetime Member' pin at 20 years, thus eliminating those two pins and having one pin after 20 years membership. On our 2nd order of these Anniversary Pins, I projected how many we would need for the next 5 years based on our Membership Roster that Jim keeps from the 2021 year, which incidentally was the 30th Anniversary of the Utah Miata Club.



If your club anniversary is in any month of this year, you will be eligible to receive that year pin starting this month. We changed the rule on receiving the pin from the month you actually became a member, to eligibility in January of your eligible year. I have a list of those



who will be eligible this year for an Anniversary Pin. There are 98 members who are eligible for pins, and an additional 6 non-active members for a total of 104 pins. Some have already received pins who were qualified last year in 2022 for their pin. There are too many to name all the members here but this is a breakdown of pins for each available year: 3 Year Pin: 7. 5 Year Pin: 29. 10 Year Pin: 20. 15 Year Pin: 12. Life Time Pin: 20 and Non-Active member pins: 6. Lifetime members are as follows: Baileys, Bowers, Carlson, Fergusons, Annie Kloer, McDonalds, Millgates, Annette Nielsen, Porters, Steckler, Tobiason, and Spence Wood. It is my hope that everyone in the club will be inspired to become a lifetime member.



Beartooth Highway Trip by Roger Heath

Beartooth Highway Summer Road Trip July 20 – 23, 2023

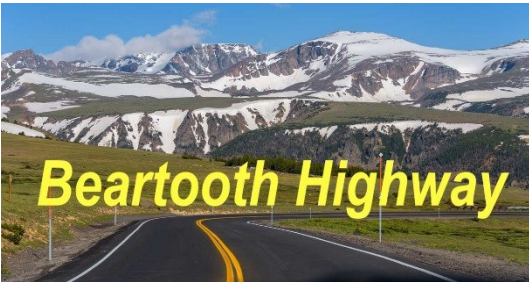
Four day, three night trip cruising along the Teton Mountain Range, twice through Yellowstone NP and the main event, driving over one of America’s most famous and dangerous scenic drives – the Beartooth Highway. Includes overnight stays in Afton, WY, Red Lodge and West Yellowstone, MT and an afternoon in Yellowstone NP.

Suggested places of lodging:

July 20th Afton, WY – Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriot

July 21st Red Lodge, MT – Red Lodge Inn

July 22nd West Yellowstone – Best Western Weston Inn

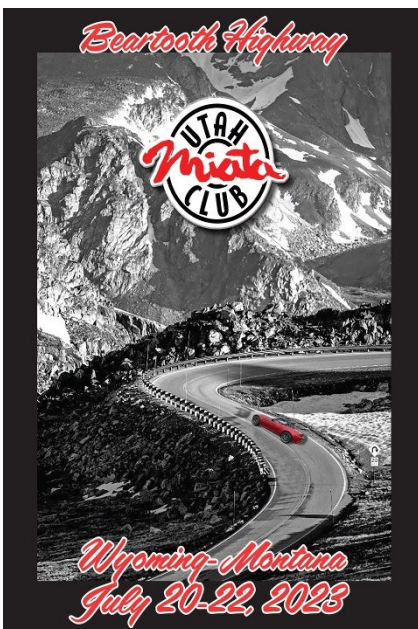


For more details see the Utah Miata Club website and the Utah Miata Club Facebook page under Events.



Miata Shirts for Beartooth Highway Trip

I will be making up some event T-shirts for this trip. They will be like the other shirts we have made for club events. The Beartooth Shield logo will be on the left front chest and Beartooth Highway Photo with red Miata large on the back of shirt. Shirt cost is \$16.00 for Tees SM –XL and \$18.00 for 2XL and larger. The Car Event Magnets will be similar size 5.5” as other event magnets and cost 2 for \$12.00 or 1 for \$8.00, same cost as always. Contact Mike Bailey for the order and I will have a pass-around list at monthly club meetings. Be sure to get your rooms if you don’t have them yet. Details on UMC Facebook Events page. Thank you for your support! **Zoom - Zoom**



Ghost & Legends Challenge by Mike Bailey

I have some more information on the Utah Miata Challenge or 2023; Ghosts & Legends event.

As a reminder: the Ghosts & Legends Challenge starts January 1st. Please either text or email me if you are thinking of participating. My contact info is at bottom of this article. I will also have a sign up list at the meetings in 2023. It will run from January through the middle of October.

The "challenge" is to drive your Miata to any old 'ghost towns' in Utah, or surrounding states if you wish, and take a photo of you in front of any sign, like town name, street sign, or landmark like a mine shaft or noteworthy thing in the town to show you were there. If you plan to go where roads are bad, or dirt roads, you can use an OTM (other than Miata vehicle), but still take your photo. Photos will be turned in towards end of the event in October. More details to follow on this later on.



The person or couple who visits the most towns or landmarks during this time period will be the winners. We plan to have a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and possibly consolation prizes.

Event T-shirts and possibly an event pin will be available to participants. This is intended to be a fun event that everyone can participate in. If anyone wants to lead a group drive to any place, please let me or a club officer know and we can put it on the calendar for a group drive.

More details will follow in the coming months. Thanks to all those willing to participate in this. Photos from Doyle and Val on their first drive this year to a ghost town cemetery.

ZOOM - ZOOM



Miata of the Month

Miata of the Month belongs to Steve and Kathy Nielsen. It was just purchased in January about a week ago. It is a 2011 Black NC Grand Touring PRHT. They still have their 1996 Red NA which is up for sale at a reasonable price if anyone is interested. They have been members for 11 years since 2012.





Member Spotlight by Carol Lynn Vredeveld

Featuring our long time UMC Member, Spence Wood

This month it is my pleasure to spotlight one of our original Miata Club members, Spence Wood! He is not only a longtime member, but a very good friend to me and many of our current members....to know him is to love him. He is one of the kindest guys you will ever meet and is genuinely interest in the club and its members. Spence has had some wonderful experiences and memories with the club through the years and it's great to have our own retired resident Psychologist to lend a caring ear to anyone in need. Enjoy reminiscing with Spence and getting some insight into how the club continues to attract couples and individuals that love to drive fast cars and make memories

Looking Back and Remembering by: Spence Wood

My first awareness of the Mazda Miata occurred in 1989 while on vacation in California and it was love at first sight. Back in those early days, when you purchased a Miata they demanded a \$1000 payment prior to ordering it into the dealership. The only colors available at that time were Red, White, and Blue. I chose a new Silver Miata that was added in 1990. Since that time I have purchased two additional new ones and currently drive a 2008 Galaxy Grey Touring model.

Over the past 3 decades I have enjoyed the activities and friendship of many members of the Utah Miata Club. Monthly luncheons and drives with special activities to civic, cultural events and natural wonders have provided so much joy.

In terms of personal history, I grew up in Delta, Utah, attended both Utah State University and Brigham Young University, worked as a Psychologist at Nebo School District and Utah State Hospital, taught classes at Utah Technical College, maintained a Private Practice, and provided Clinical Services for a Federal Contract.

I've been married twice. My first wife of 30 years (Carolyn Bohman of Morgan, Utah) passed away from Breast Cancer and second wife of 15 years (Sherry Brown of Magna, Utah) died of brain Cancer. My son Todd Wood resides in Orem, Utah. Currently retired, I sell "Spence's Books" on Amazon and have a particular passion for reading, travel, wine, history, poker, and the Miata Club.

Approximately 30 years ago three close friends and I opened a new business; "Absolute Scuba" on Orem's Main Street. I was an avid skier, and a Ski Instructor at Sundance Resort.



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In the year 2000, Richard Teasdale (then President of the Utah Miata Club) and his wife Cheri invited me and Sherry Brown (my girlfriend who later became my wife) to join them on a trip to Bruges, Belgium for an MX-5 Europe International Convention of 600 Miata's. After 3 or 4 days at the Miata event we then spent a week and a half touring France, Paris, and Amsterdam. Richard was a fantastic tour guide because he had lived in the area, is bilingual and all I had to do was follow him. Lodging was invariably in old castles with 10 foot thick stone walls. Twenty two years after that experience, I frequently think of how much I appreciate Richard's kindness.

In October of 2006 Mike Bailey organized a 2-week Mediterranean Cruise for the Utah Miata Club. It was attended by 16 of our members including Sherry and me. Because of the friendly company it turned out to be "a trip of a lifetime".



On the Great Western Adventure in 2013 organized by Lou Vredeveld and Steve Beckstead, we were served Mojitos while we were waiting for a Ferry Ride from Anacortes to Friday Harbor in the San Juan Islands, WA by a nice lady waiting with us that was impressed by our Miata's. She just happened to have champagne and orange juice in the trunk of her car for a business meeting she was late for; so, she shared with us instead!



Since the 1990's the Utah Miata club has provided a support system for Miata owners. I personally recall with fond memories, numerous drives, meetings, activities and friendships. Participating with the club is a major factor in my life and personal identity. Zoom Zoom Zoom!

I think Spence could write a book about his Miata trips and adventures and it would be a best seller on Amazon....at least to Miata Folks! If you haven't had a chance to visit some of these places personally, I hope you enjoyed them vicariously through his adventures and photos with the UMC.....Thanks Spence!



"The 39 Steps" Play at Grand Theatre By: Valerie Francis

"The 39 Steps" Play at the Grand Theatre Play Information

A group of us club members saw this play many years ago at Sandy City Theatre and I remember it being a hoot. So, when I saw it was on the schedule for the Grand Theatre, I immediately knew Doyle and I were going to go.

We have our tickets, and everyone is welcome to join us at this crazy spy comedy with a Monty Python type take on Alfred Hitchcock movies. Here are the details:

Saturday, Feb 25th, 2:00 pm matinee

Tickets can be purchased at <https://grandtheatrecompany.vbotickets.com/.../The.../74482>

Regular \$30, Senior (60 and over \$24), call the Box Office for possible military discount at 801-957-3322.

Please note: This play is what The Grand calls "backstage" where they set up seats on bleachers on the stage, so it is up close to the actors and quite fun. It is general admission (find a seat when we arrive). Their current ticketing system doesn't accommodate general admission so if going, pick any seat when ordering since it won't matter, and arrive early for best choices for seats. Seating is limited so if planning to go, get your tickets sooner rather than later.

Please email me an RSVP if interested in going to an early dinner afterwards so I can get a head count. This will help to determine possible restaurants. For your RSVP or questions, email Valerie at valerief Francis714@gmail.com.



2023 Calendar of Events



February 4th: Farmington Wildlife Center, (11:30), Brian & Sue Christiansen

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

April 1st: Kennecott Mine Tour (11:30 lunch and location TBD), Mike & Lynn Bailey

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

June 3rd: (Lunch 11:30 location & drive TBD) - Mike & Lynn Bailey

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

July 20 - 23: Beartooth Hwy Trip (Info this NL, refer to website, Facebook page) Roger & Perly Heath

September 22-24: Fall Leaf Tour (meetup Time and location TBD), see details on UMC website, Roger & Perly

October: Complete Ghosts and Legends Challenge (details to come), Mike Bailey

Remember When by Mike Bailey

I did this series of monthly articles for the newsletter a few years back and thought it would be good to bring it back for this year. Reason being, it is more for the long time members than probably the new club members as a lot of us 'older Miata folks' like the memories to look back on and reminisce, and for new members it should be fun to read what this club has been doing for going on now for 33 consecutive years. I'll be talking about some of our trips, Miata events and cruises and other regional or national events we've participated in as well as some fun things that club members have done, as well as different activities we have had!

History of the Miata and Utah Miata Club Logo: Question? Why does the UMC have two Logos?

This will be my subject for this month, however I will only touch a little on Miata history and only have an introduction of it in this article. More to follow next month and in future newsletters.

Back in 1997 when I joined the club, the Utah Miata Club had lunches every month at Marie Calendar's Restaurant across from St. Mark's Hospital on 3900 South. I met all the members and liked them immediately so I was hooked on joining this club. There was another Miata club in American Fork, (I forgot their name) but they were not too active and soon dissolved. At this time the club used the same logo as the "Miata Club of America" which was a round blue circle with club name and "Miata" logotype script in the center, similar to our Official logo now. The national club was very active back then and I also joined the national club which was run by a lady named Barbara Beach. They also had a month magazine which was very interesting. I also participated in some of their activities, which were held in California because this is where the 'Mazda North American' headquarters is located at. Lynn and I drove the Miata to California and participated in events like 'Miata Fest' and Miata racing at the Miata Laguna Seca Motorway as well as at events at MNAO (Mazda North American Offices). There we met Tom Matano and Bob Hall, who were the original designers of the Miata. I met Bob Retzer in 2002, photographer of Miata Magazine, whom I bought his 2002 Blazing Yellow from in 2003. At MNAO they displayed clay models as well as early proto-type versions of the Miata. I loved seeing those cars and learning about Miata history! More information about this and Mazda Fest events in future 'Remember When' articles. I hope everyone finds this history fascinating!



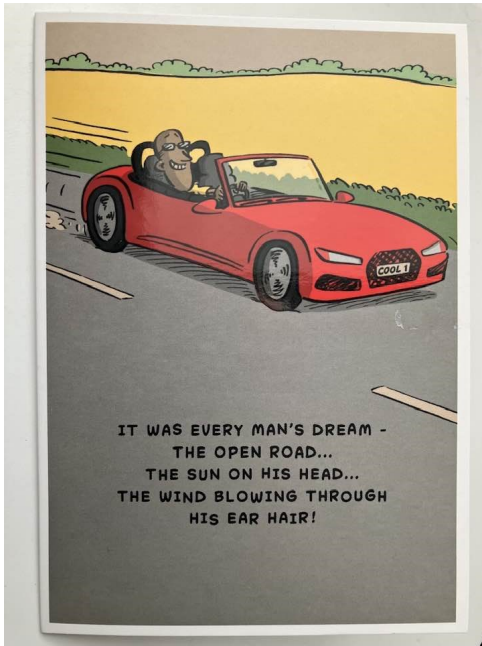
Since I was in the graphics design and printing business, I got permission from the club President and officers to design a logo for the club. I researched club logos from across the country. I came up with a couple designs; one was the Star Design, with a bright yellow star and a red Miata on it, an NA like the new 1997 that I just leased, and put 'Utah Miata Club' under the car. The other design was the 'Official Logo' which we still have to this day. The club voted on the Official Logo. Through my research on other club logos, I also wanted one that was more colorful and represented the state of Utah, so I came up with the "Mountains Logo" a month later, and when I showed it to everyone, they loved that and wanted that one also. This is why we have two logos! The first Mountains Logo was the one featured here with the black sky background. I changed it to blue after 6 months which was more popular, and hey, everyone likes a Blue Sky! Through the years, we have changed the Miata on our logo from an NA to an NB, NC and now an ND. So members can choose which one they like best for their own personal Car Club Magnets, or even get a set of each!

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“HUMOR IS GOOD MEDICINE!” by Mike Bailey



Porter's Chico Driving the Miata

Photos of February Birthdays and at other Miata Club events! Enjoy!




**SMILE
YOU'RE
ON
CANDID
CAMERA**

