



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club

Grand Canyon North Rim

June 2022



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From the Top Down By: Roger Heath

Well here we are almost a third of the way through summer and already mother nature is throwing curve balls. Looking forward to the rest of this summer, I'm hoping we don't see a return of the smoke filled skies and the devastating wild-fires like last summer.

This should be my last From the Top Down article as the next time we are together will be the summer picnic and annual meeting. As you all know by now the annual meeting was changed last year to be held in conjunction with the summer picnic to allow greater participation. It is also the time new board members are selected with the call for nominations going out a few months ago. To date, the number of nominations have been few. Those nominees will be notified prior to the picnic as they do have the option to decline. For me, it is my intention to be a one term, if you will, and fall back into the director spot as I'm required to do so. That means a new president will have to be nominated and selected. So please come prepared with your nominations and/or self-nominations.

Looking back at the last year since I was voted in I would like to say thanks for everyone's support but I'd really like to give a special thanks to Val and Margie. As you know Val has been wearing two hats, the newsletter editor as well as the vice president. She continually produces one of the best newsletters around as well as writing many of the articles. As vice president she has kept a tight grip on me so I don't stray too far off. And Margie, this club wouldn't function if we didn't have an accurate accounting of the money and she really is a very nice person, sometimes. LOL

As in life there are the ups and downs. The club experienced the devastating loss of Shylo Bazzaz, the Jaworski's being evacuated from their home due to a wildfire, but then we saw the return of Mike Bailey. We played as a group and had a great time doing so. From the overnight drive to Helper and Price to the weeklong Rocky Mountain Road Trip to all the monthly drives and Christmas Party. By the time the picnic gets here we will have already completed two more trips, the Grand Canyon and Explore Oregon. Looking forward to the rest of this year and 2023 I would like to challenge each of you to step up with your ideas for club trips and activities and continue the momentum from this past year. Personally, I may need to take a step back to let things settle as I plan to retire in July 2023, and with my youngest son graduating high school next year take the family on one last family vacation.



July Picnic, Elections and Planning Meeting

Date & Time: Saturday, July 16th, 11:30 PM

Location: LDS Church Pavilion (Pavilion is behind the church building)

Address: 6410 South 725 East Murray 84107 (a couple blocks west of Wheeler Farm)

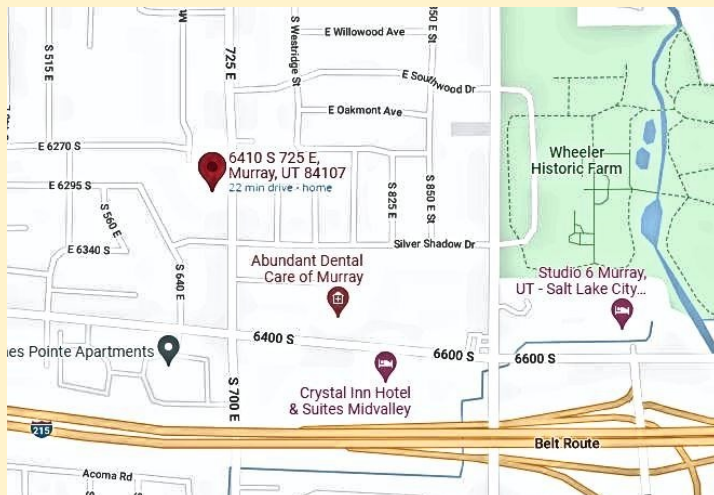
Information:

This year's picnic and elections will be on the 3rd weekend due to July 4th happening the 1st weekend and most of the Executive Board will be at the Explore Oregon event the 2nd weekend. The picnic will be held in Murray behind a church that will afford us privacy and a large enough venue that we won't need to share with anyone else. This is the same location as last year's picnic and our April meeting this year. You will not need to bring camp chairs with you unless you would like to. This location will have running water and bathroom facilities as well.

Food will be provided by the club. South of the Border food truck (same food truck from the last three years) will be there. Feel free to bring a dessert to share if you'd like to. No pressure.

We will be electing new club officers. Please be thinking of those you want to nominate or self-nominate. You can also submit nominations through email or wait until the day of the picnic. It would be nice to see multiple names for each position.

Also during the picnic the calendar for activities will be set for the coming months. Be thinking of any month you'd like to lead a drive or if you want to plan or suggest an overnigher. Everything begins with an idea or suggestion.



No drive is planned, instead we will be handling club business while enjoying good food and company.



Thank You Robert and Sharon Mechling

Even though our annual Holiday party is five months away, party room reservations often need to be done months in advance. A special thanks to Robert and Sharon for staying up past midnight on June 6th to be first in line to reserve the Lone Peak Park Pavilion in Sandy for our Holiday party on December 3rd. They have done this for two years now and we really appreciate their efforts so that we have a nice facility for our fun celebration.

THANKS!



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. You can also pay your dues online with PayPal on our website; www.utahmiataclub.org. This method is \$37 / \$27 (includes 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.treasurmc@icloud.com.

Birthdays / Memberships

New Members

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
NONE		

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

NAME	EXPIRING
JOSH & TONYA ASHMENT	7/31/2022
BRET & ROXANNE BAGLEY	7/31/2022
ALI BAZZAZ	7/31/2022
TYLER & SHAREE BECKSTEAD	7/31/2022
BENJAMIN BROWNLEE	7/31/2022
DONN & JANET CICHOCKI	7/31/2022
MARK & CHARISSE FURGUSON	7/31/2022
JASON & RACHEL WOODS	7/31/2022



NAME	BIRTHDAY
ROSEANN WHITAKER	1 Jul
CLAUDE BROWN	6 Jul
VALERIE FRANCIS	14 Jul
JASON WOODS	15 Jul
MARK REILLY	22 Jul
ELYS BANK	24 Jul

Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
SHAUNA EDSON	3/31/2022
PAUL HOUSE	3/31/2022

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

NAME	EXPIRED
DEREK & KANDIS ANDERSON	6/30/2022
ELYS BANK	5/31/2022
AMY BECKSTEAD	6/30/2022
NICHOLAS BELKER	6/30/2022
ANTHONY BROWNING	5/31/2022
CAL TYLER	6/30/2022
RON DISHAW	4/30/2022
ANDREW & SANDIE GLASMACHER	5/31/2022
ROBERT & GALE KLINSHAW	6/30/2022
LARRY & MACEY KNIGHT	6/30/2022
PAUL SMIRCICH	5/31/2022
LARRY THOMAS	6/30/2022
ANDREW WADE	4/31/22
TRACY WOODWORTH	5/31/2022



Club Officers

President: Roger Heath

Vice President: Valerie Francis

Secretary: Jim Newson

Treasurer: Margie Newson

Directors: Hank Pond, Steve Beckstead, Robert Mechling

June Bear Lake Raspberry Shake Drive Report By: Valerie Francis

What a fun full day of top down driving the beautiful mountain passes in northern Utah... and of course the always yummy raspberry shakes (or chocolate for Steve) in Garden City, Bear Lake.

It all started at the Rotary Glen Park at the mouth of Emigration Canyon. We held a quick meeting there then 21 cars headed out for our day long adventure. Just as we approached the junction to East Canyon a 22nd car caught up to us. Thank goodness traffic was light so our late arrival Miata could catch us. Actually, traffic was light all day so we were able to stay as a group until almost the very end when all the traffic lights in Logan split us into several groups for the last section over Sardine Canyon and into Brigham City.



As always, there were a few bicyclists along the narrow East Canyon road but we were able to navigate around them carefully, especially in our compact Miatas. After reaching the **summit at 7420 feet**, we headed down past the reservoir, through Morgan, then side roads to the Trappers Loop turnoff at Mountain Green. Up over Trappers Loop, **elevation 6306** we went, then down into Huntsville, Ogden Valley. At our pit stop here, we picked up two more Miatas, so now we had a total of 24 (Mike & Lynn Bailey, and Roger Newton) . We took our break at the Huntsville Park since the meetup appointed gas station did not have public restrooms!?!



After a nice break at the park, we headed up Monte Cristo canyon topping the **summit at 9030 feet**, still with snow banks along the side of the road. Then down to Woodruff and the flattest portion of our drive, where one car turned off to head home. Descending through a short twisty section to reach Bear Lake, we arrived at Garden City. Here we split off to find our own shakes, then regrouped (except for two Miatas that headed to Lava Hot Springs to spend the night) for the final stretch through Logan Canyon going to the **7828 foot summit** and down into Logan.

After Logan, there was one last canyon to navigate, Sardine Canyon, then quite a few stopped in the parking lot at Maddox Ranch House to say goodbye (no one stayed for dinner as the restaurant was packed), while others went straight to the freeway and home.



(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

In the end we climbed and descended six canyons/loops, and learned the following lessons:

- There are no public restrooms at the Chevron in Huntsville???
- Don't go to Maddox Restaurant on a Saturday (or probably any day) without a reservation!!!
- The Bear Lake Raspberry Shake run is always a fun and beautiful drive—oh yeah!
- We really appreciate all members who plan and lead drives, in this instance Steve and Ronda Beckstead! Thanks Steve and Ronda for this amazing day !



Miata Tales By: Ken Jaworski

Well it seems like summer has finally arrived. Rallies going North, South, East, and West. Also, some want to go around, around, and around. Here I'm talking about Larry H. Miller, Las Vegas Race Track, or SCCA parking lots. I'm talking about challenging ourselves and others to the great drive experience we all enjoy with our MIATA's.

Enter the SPOILER!!!! Your insurance company!!!!

Jan recently asked me to review our auto (fleet) insurance policy. Unlike many of you we have a fleet. Jan's summer car is the MIATA, her winter car is the Honda CRV. Oh, yah, my summer car is the MINI Cooper S and my winter truck is my Nissan Xterra. Soooo, it was time to read between the lines, as it were, for our fleet insurance policy.

Spoiler #1:

F: **"Driving contest or challenge"** includes but is not limited to"

1. A competition against other people, vehicles or time; or
2. An activity that challenges the speed or handling characteristics of a vehicle or improves or demonstrates driving skills, provided the activity occurs on a track or course that is closed from non-participants.

Spoiler #2:

11. Sustained while a participant in or in practice for any **driving contest or challenge**.

Spoiler #3:

5. While **occupying** any vehicle when it is being operated in or in practice for any **driving contest or challenge**.

Spoiler #4,5,6,7,8,9, ad infinitum.

Yup, you get the picture. Some have posted on the Utah Miata Club Facebook page as well as other Facebook pages, how much fun can be had with our MIATA's.

If you participate in challenging yourself or others, you just might want to have make sure you have the appropriate insurance coverage.



Remember to check your tire pressure because AIR is what you are really driving on.



Member Spotlight By: Carol Lynn Vredevel

This month's spotlight members are Steve and Teri Olsen.

Once again, one of our current members was on the lookout for potential new members. The Olsen's were out for a drive and saw our caravan of Miata's going up the canyon road and pulled in behind us. Val saw them and at a stop sign ran back to give them a UMC card with info about the club and how to join...and here we are with two enthusiastic new members! It's so fun to hear the reasons why our friends in the club ended up driving Miata's. This club offers so many opportunities to all of us.. so keep up the good work current members so our club will continue to grow.

Steve's will share some of their life adventures with us in the article to follow:

Hi everyone! I'm Steve Olsen, and my wife is Teri. We both grew up in the Logan area and were high school sweethearts at Sky View. (Me and two of our children attended Utah State: Go Aggies!) We lived most of our married life in suburban Weber County, but nine years ago Teri fulfilled a lifelong dream when we moved into our old pioneer era home in inner city Ogden, built in 1892 by one of Lorin Farr's sons (the first mayor of Ogden).

We have four adult children and eleven grandchildren. I retired late last year as an engineer/data scientist from Autoliv, the airbag company. Teri is a retired home care/hospice nurse. We celebrated 44 years together this year.

Our Miata journey started with a motorcycle trip several years ago. We trailered my Suzuki GS1100G to a friend's cabin in Island Park and did day trips into Yellowstone. Late one night on the way back to the cabin we were caught in a downpour so bad it shorted out the fuse to my headlight. As we shivered that evening at the cabin, Teri said "too bad motorcycles don't have a roof you can put up". My response: They're called convertibles, they just have four wheels instead of two.

A colleague at Autoliv was a Miata fan, so soon after we purchased our 2000 black Miata. She's been treated to a rebuilt motor, a new top and leather seats the last few years. Even with 150,000 miles on her, it's amazing how solid and tight she is! Now when we see couples on motorcycles during our drives, we just have pity on them. In addition to the Miata, we have another old cool car, a 1962 Rambler American.



One of the great memories of our married lives was the trip up the California/Oregon coast three years ago in our Miata. When we got back, Bishop Olsen gave a short sermon to his ward members about how you can't really comprehend the grandeur of God's creation until you've driven the Avenue of the Giants in Redwood National Park in a Miata with the top down. (And yes, the Miata is obligatory.)

A drive on a sunny Saturday last March was especially serendipitous. We were pulled off the road near East Canyon Reservoir checking out Google Maps when this long line of Miata's passed by! We pulled in behind, and at the next stop sign, a nice lady (Valerie) ran back and handed us her card. So here we are! We're looking forward to some great trips and making new friends.

Welcome Steve and Teri to the Utah Miata Club. We're happy to share our fun adventures with everyone that would like to join in!



Grand Canyon North Rim Report By: Valerie Francis

What a fun adventure visiting the North Rim of the Grand Canyon with a great group of Miata Club members, a tag-a-long dad and son from the Boise Miata Club, and Roger's son and his friend. Thirteen Miatas started out from Draper, cutting up onto Hwy 6 at Spanish Fork, then cruising down Hwy 89 through all the country towns.

We stopped for lunch in Salina splitting into two groups, some at Mom's Café and some at the city park. Of course, as we were enjoying our lunch a rain cloud popped up and rained on all our clean cars. Then heading on down the road, we had a quick stop just out of Circleville to see the "boyhood home of Butch Cassidy". Just before Kanab about half the group detoured over to see Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park. It was a long day so everyone kind of went their own way for dinner.



Bright and early Saturday, we headed to the North Rim. The sky was a bit cloudy and cooler temperatures made for a great drive on the beautiful 8000ft or more forested and meadow roads. After checking out the visitors center, gift shop, and the lodge - with the most amazing overlooks, we broke up into smaller groups (depending on whether staying back in Kanab or going on to Page for Saturday night) to drive the 23 mile "narrow winding" Cape Royal Road with additional overlooks and trails.



We all stopped at the designated overlooks at our own pace taking in the beauty and peace of this grand scenery, often running into or passing each other along the way.

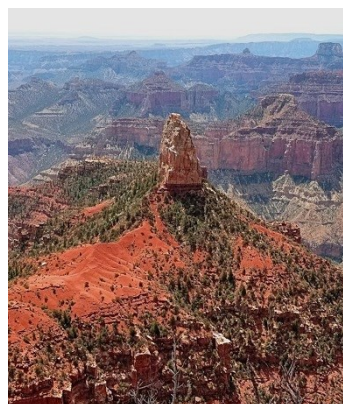
Heading back to either Kanab or Page, some stopped at the Jacob's Lake restaurant for late lunch/early dinner, while a few headed straight to Kanab and met for dinner. Sunday morning some headed on down the road to the South Rim (report next month) and others headed home from Kanab and Page.



I found it strange but very delightful that both Kanab and the North Rim were totally uncrowded. There was hardly anyone in town so restaurants were easy to get into even for our larger group, the lodge area and overlooks in the park were almost empty, and best of all, with hardly any traffic we could zoom along the twisty roads as fast as we wanted.

Enjoy a few photos here but hopefully you also saw all the Facebooks posts where more fun and fantastic photos were posted.

Thanks to Roger and Perly for planning this amazing trip! It not only had fun and beautiful roads to drive but the scenery in the park and at the overlooks was spectacular!



Vanity Plates Part II By: Mike Bailey

Last month we featured some Utah Miata Club personalized vanity plates in an article. This month I am featuring some plates from other out of state Miata clubs and friends that I've taken photos of on various regional trips to other club's events over the years, as well as at our Miatas in Utah (or Moab) events.

I did receive some comments like *"Why was my plate not in the article?"* from some members. I did send in a few more than was printed in the NL however I let the editor choose which ones to use. Actually, to answer that question, there are just too many custom plates to feature on one page! I also did not feature any of the newer vanity plates on members that have had write-ups of their plate in NL's from the last year or so.

I hope everyone likes looking at these plates and maybe if you currently do not have a personalized vanity plate, maybe you will get some ideas from these for your own plate.



REMINDER: Information on Upcoming Trips Available Online By: Valerie Francis

Just a reminder that details for all the overnight or longer trips scheduled so far this year are available on the club's webpage at www.utahmiataclub.org. The information for these will be repeated over the coming months as each trip comes closer.

The meetup information for those going on the July trips of Explore Oregon and/or Flaming Gorge is on page 10 of this newsletter.

Included online are all the details for Flaming Gorge / Vernal (July 30th), Helper Arts Festival / Nine Mile Canyon (August 20th), Great Basin / Ely (September 3rd) and Bryce / Capitol Reef (September 23rd). Hotels, routes etc. are included for those that have not already decided to come on one or all of these great adventures so you can book your rooms. Check them out and/or watch for repeats in the newsletter in upcoming issues.



Explore Oregon Trip Shirts/Event Magnets By: Mike Bailey



For those going on the **Explore Oregon trip** this month, **July 6-11, 2022**, I am making up some T-Shirts and Event Car Magnets. If you have already placed an order, and you have not already picked them up by this newsletter release, your items are done and ready to pick up.

If you have not ordered, please let me know ASAP so I can get them done for you. Any club members are also welcome to order these items whether you go on the trip or not. Price for T-Shirts is \$15.00 for size SM-XL and

\$2.00 for each size over XL. Specify size when ordering. The Oregon event logo will also be on front left chest of the T-Shirts and the Map of our route will be on the back of shirt. Event Car Magnets will be 5.5" Oval shape with the Explore Oregon Logo on it.

Please contact Mike Bailey at 801-597-1456 by phone or text or email: mike@mikebaileyprinting.com. Information was also in last month's newsletter. Thank you! **Zoom - Zoom**



New Club Shirts / Apparel By: Mike Bailey



4 GENERATIONS



Miata
MX-5



I have a new club T-Shirt for this Summer that has been designed featuring the "Four Generations of the Miata" and includes the club logo on them. This is a hand drawn custom artwork illustration of the four generations of the Miata designed by me and created by my daughter Crystal. We made some "Three Generations of the Miata" shirts back in 2012 which were popular. I actually came up with this before I got Covid so it has been a couple years in the making.

We are finally ready to print some up and I have a sample to show you at the next meeting. The cost on these will be about \$15. - \$16.00 each, for sizes S - XL. 2XL and over will be a few dollars more. We will print this on the front of the T-shirt, unless otherwise specified. I will be experimenting with several different colors of shirts on this. Ladies sizes are available for the women in the club, so please specify if you want a lady's size. We can also do Sweat Shirts as well. Please let me know if you want one of these and your size as they can be ordered through me.

You can also see the May 2022 newsletter on page 10 for information and photos of other club apparel items available; ie: polo shirts, denim shirts, club jackets and hats. I do have some new Utah Miata Club Logo ball caps available for \$15.00 ea. with the Official club logo embroidered on them. Fancy ball caps with flames are \$3.00 more. A new hat with a "shade" flap is also now available in Khaki and Medium Green which are

\$20.00 each. Very nice to keep the hot sun off your head and shoulders.

Also Club logo patches are available for \$10.00 each that you can sew onto your own shirt or jacket.

Send orders to mike@mikebaileyprinting.com. Thank you for any orders.



Explore Oregon 2022 Meetup Information By: Roger Heath



Just a reminder for those going on the Explore Oregon 2022 event in Grants Pass, Oregon and wanting to drive up as a group, we will **meet for breakfast at the Cracker Barrel in Layton (1792 N Heritage Park Blvd) at 8:00 AM.**

From there it's a loooooong drive to the Best Western Rory & Ryan Inns in Hines, Oregon for the night. See you then for those lucky ones going on this adventure!



Flaming Gorge Meetup Information Saturday July 30

For those going on the trip to Flaming Gorge (with an overnight stay in Vernal and visit to Dinosaur National Monument), here is the meetup information:

July 30th: 8:30 AM meet at the Coalville Philipps 66, 118 S 500 W, Coalville, UT

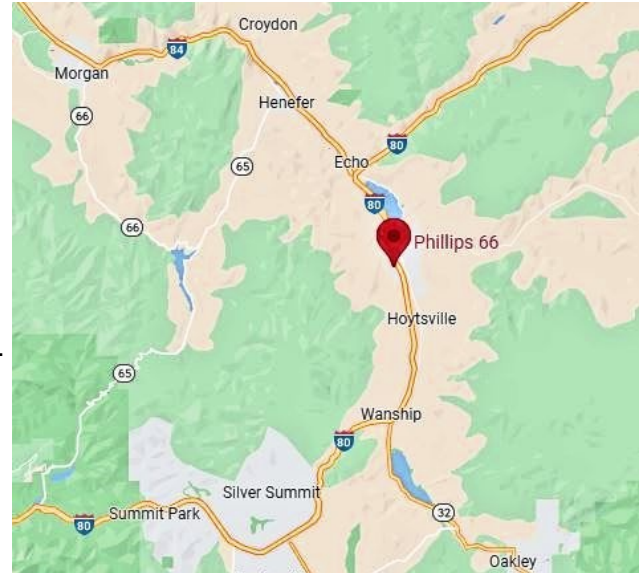
For anyone interested that has not signed up yet and would like to join us, here is the trip information:

We'll take I-80 from Coalville to Fort Bridger, WY, Mountain View and Manila, finally stopping at Flaming Gorge where Ken Jaworski will lead us around the various sites of Flaming Gorge reservoir. Then we'll head south to Vernal where we'll spend the night. Sunday morning, time TBD, for those interested we'll take a short drive to Dinosaur National Monument. After visiting the monument Ken will lead us on the backroads as we head to Kamas and finally home.

**** Lunch on Saturday** - the plan is to stop at the Mountain View city park and eat there. There are very few places in Mountain View to eat so it's suggested to bring a lunch.

**** Lodging in Vernal** - Most are staying at the Dinosaur Inn and Suites, or feel free to stay at other Vernal hotels.

Lodging: Dinosaur Inn and Suites, 251 E Main St, Vernal, UT 84078, Phone: (435) 789-2660



2022 Calendar of Events

July 7-10th: Explore Oregon Adventure, Roger and Perly Heath

July 16th: Summer picnic, Elections & Planning Meeting, refer to page 2

July 30 –31st: Flaming Gorge / Vernal Overnighter, refer to page 10, Ken and Jan Jaworski

August 20-21st: Helper Arts Festival & Nine Mile Canyon, see details online, Roger and Perly Heath

September 3—5th: Great Basin / Ely, see details online, Roger and Perly Heath

September 23—25th: Bryce Canyon / Capitol Reef National Parks, see details online, Val Francis & Doyle Sturm

October 6-9: San Diego Club Surf 'N' Safari, <http://sandiegomiataclub.org/sns22/>

December 3rd: Holiday Party (Sandy Lone Peak Park Pavilion, Time TBD)



Photos this month are a few July birthdays and club members enjoying shakes on the Bear Lake Raspberry Shake Run.

