



Ragtops to Ridges

January 2026



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



THE NEW
2026 Mazda MX-5 Miata



THE NEW
2026 Mazda MX-5 Miata

See Page 7

From the Top Down by Robert Olsen

Three Special Things About January and the Utah Miata Club:

January is a month of quiet reflection, fresh beginnings, and hopeful plans—three things that fit perfectly with the spirit of the Utah Miata Club. While our Miatas rest under their covers, safe from the snow and salted roads, our love for the cars and our community doesn't hibernate. Instead, January gives us a chance to slow down, look back on what we've accomplished, and look forward to another year of friendship, adventures, and top-down fun.



Reflection is the first special gift of January. The long winter nights invite us to think back on the miles we traveled and the memories we made. Last year, our club contributed so much to each other and our community. We organized scenic drives that showed off Utah's incredible landscapes, from mountain canyons to red rock vistas. We welcomed new members, helping them discover the joy of Miata life. And we supported each other through shared meals, car talks, and laughter that reminded us our club is more than cars—it's family.

The second thing special about January is **renewal**. The new year invites us to dream again and plan what's ahead. Even as our cars stay parked, our imaginations start their engines. We begin planning spring's first drive, thinking of new routes and events to make this year's calendar even better. Our contribution to the Utah Miata Club in 2026 can be to bring fresh energy—volunteering to help at events, sharing new ideas for drives, or inviting others to join the fun. Just like tuning an engine, a little attention and creativity can make the whole club run smoother and stronger.

Finally, January is a time of **connection**. It may be cold outside, but that makes the warmth of our friendships even brighter. We can stay in touch through club meetings, dinners, and our newsletter, keeping the spark alive until the first sunny day invites us back to the open road. This year, we can contribute by simply showing up—supporting each other, sharing stories, and keeping the community spirit alive through winter's chill.

So while the Miatas rest, January reminds us that being part of the Utah Miata Club is about more than driving. It's about reflecting on where we've been, renewing our excitement for the road ahead, and staying connected until it's time to drop the top and feel that first rush of spring air again.

Robert

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January Luncheon & Activity by Mike Bailey

When: Saturday, January 10, 2026 Lunch & Movie (Movie time: TBD)

Check the UMC Facebook page for movie time after January 5th as it's not available now.

Luncheon: 11:00 AM. Red Robin Restaurant 801-266-9410

Address: 316 E. Winchester (6400 S.) Murray, Utah 84107



Movie: "Wicked: For Good" (Time TBD see above)

Megaplex: Jordan Commons; 9400 S. State St., Sandy, Utah



We will meet at 11:00 a.m. at the Murray Red Robin Restaurant in the private dining room on north side. Order off the menu. We will conduct our monthly meeting and discussion of club business and outline the next few months for winter and spring activities. Any discussion or recommendations from our members is welcome and appreciated on anything you would be interested in doing during the colder months.



We have planned to see the sequel to the movie we saw last January 2024; **"Wicked: For Good"**. Each person will purchase their own ticket and refreshments (if desired). Members will then go on their own to the theater at appropriate time. The theater offers seating from standard to luxury. Regular seat pricing and senior and child pricing, and seat selection also available on Jan. 5th. We usually have a real good turnout for our club movies so hope you will want to attend this as we have a lot of fun at the movies! Photo characters from original Wizard of Oz and also characters from Wicked I & 2. featured below.



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 and for your Service and Parts. (801) 397-2277



bountiful mazda
 bmazda.com



Attention: New Membership Dues Reminder

The Utah Miata Club is a group of friends who promote our common interest in the Mazda MX-5 Miata, by joining in safe, recreational, and social activities. Your dues permit you to participate in club activities, and to receive the newsletter by email and participate on the club's Facebook Page. A single membership is \$30.00 for the year, and a dual membership is \$40.00. If your name is among the personalized reminders below, at our next activity please hand a check—payable to the **Utah Miata Club**—to Mike or Kelly Thompson. If you prefer you may mail a check to 2468 E. 1950 N. Layton, UT. 84040. If you have questions Mike may be contacted at 530-521-6675, or by email at utahmiataclub@yahoo.com. Payment types accepted for your dues are cash, check, money order or Venmo: username @UMCTreas.

Please Renew your Membership on the Month it is Due! Thank you!

Birthdays / Memberships



New Members

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
MARK REMINGTON	1991	BRITISH RACING GREEN

Expiring Soon: \$40. Dual- \$30 Single / Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRED
GEORGE / PATTY CHASE	31 JAN 2026
GARY / KATHY COLLINGS	31 JAN 2026
DOYLE STURM / VAL FRANCIS	31 JAN 2026
CRISTY / AINSLEY HEADY	31 JAN 2026
KEN / JAN JAWORSKI	31 JAN 2026
ERIC / KATHY KANKAINEN	31 JAN 2026
TREVOR LEE	31 JAN 2026
MIGUEL MALDONADO	31 JAN 2026
BEN McGEE	31 JAN 2026
RYAN McGEE	31 JAN 2026
MARK / SUSAN VAUGHN	31 JAN 2026

Memberships Expiring / Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRED
JOE LEVERICH / JOANN JACOBSON WELLS LEVERICH	31 DEC 2025



EMMA RICHMAN	05 JAN
CHRISTOPHER WONG	05 JAN
ALISON BRIDEN	07 JAN
KAY SCHEURER	10 JAN
KRISTI DURRANT	18 JAN
ROGER HEATH	28 JAN
JACKIE NICHOLL	30 JAN



REMOVED FROM ROSTER	EXP.
ROBERT & VICKY HANSHEW	31 OCT
JAMES & LAUREN JOLLY	31 OCT
BRUCE SIMON /M. WESTOVER	31 OCT

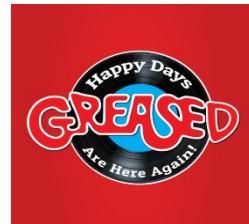
Club Officers July 2025—2026

President: Robert Olsen Vice President: Michael Bailey Secretary: Kelly Thompson Treasurer: Michael Thompson
Directors: Gordon Nicholl, Valerie Francis, David Scheurer Newsletter Editor: Michael Bailey

February Luncheon / Activity by Robert Olsen



When: Saturday, February 7, 2026. Time: 12:00 Noon
Where: Red Robin Restaurant, Murray, Utah 84107
Address: 316 E. Winchester Ave. (6400 South) Murray



Activity: Desert Star Playhouse, Murray, Utah
Featured Play will be "Greased" Time: 3:30 pm

Get your tickets NOW as they sell out quickly! Adults are \$30.95.

Those reserved so far have seats on Row 5 & 6 however you can sit anywhere. Call 801-226-2600 for seat reservations. Email: boxoffice@thestarstage.com.

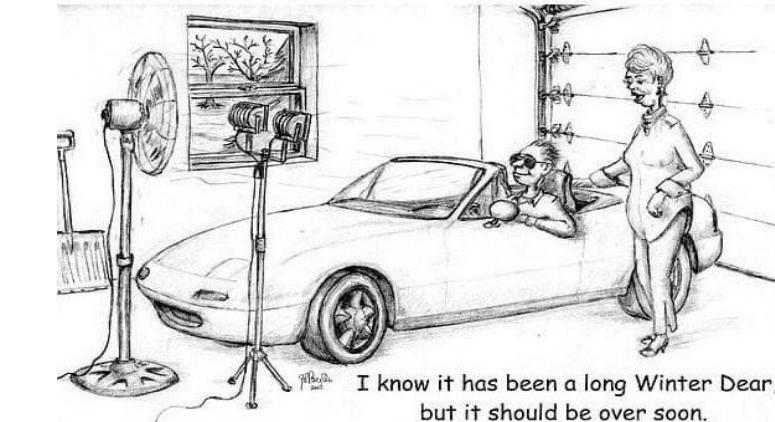
We will have our monthly club luncheon and activity on first Saturday of this month instead of 2nd Saturday at Red Robin. Address of the Desert Star Playhouse is 4861 S. State Street, Murray, Ut. 84107. Parking is available on the street or in back of theater. There will probably be a little time after we finish lunch until when the play starts at the Desert Star Playhouse but you should arrive well before the starting time of the play. Everyone can make their own way to the theater. This will be a very fun event so hope you will attend.



Just For Fun



My favorite Winter Miata cartoon at the right!



I hope no one is offended by this photo above, but sometimes editors have a sense of humor!



March Luncheon & Drive by Jackie Nicholl



Where: Cracker Barrel in Layton, Utah **Time:** 11:00 AM
Address: 1792 No. Heritage Park Blvd. Layton, UT.



We will meet at the Cracker Barrel at 11:00 am. We will order off the menu. We'll have our monthly meeting and discuss upcoming events and activities for our Spring and Summer driving season. After lunch we will line up our Miatas for a drive to Antelope Island if weather permits. Details below on the drive. If the weather is bad we will drive to the Hill Air Force Base Museum for a tour there.

Antelope Island Drive and Activity

Destination: Antelope Island and drive to the Fielding Garr Ranch

Note: You will need a Utah State Park Pass for free entrance or there is a fee to cross the Causeway: **Entrance Fee:** \$15.00 per vehicle up to 8 people. **Senior entrance Fee is \$10.00.** If you want to purchase a Utah State Parks Pass the annual fee is \$65.00.

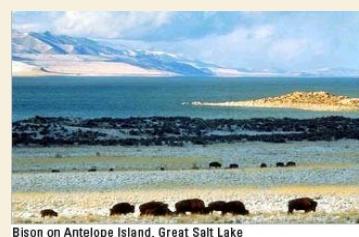
NOTICE: The Visitor Center is currently closed for construction and renovation. Temporary Visitor Information and gifts located at the Antelope Island Marina, to the right as you approach the island.

Visitor Center/Information: 801-725-9263 Visitor's Booth Information and Address:
 4528 West 1700 South Syracuse, Utah 84075

Entrance Booth/Information: 801-773-2941

Senior entrance fee (65 years of age): \$10 per vehicle up to 8 people Antelope Island
 Annual Pass: \$65 (includes the Davis County Causeway fee)

Annual State Parks Day Use Pass: \$125 for Utah Residents, \$65 for Utah Resident Seniors.





MIATA TIDBITS

by Mike Bailey

Newsworthy Items from UMC Members



Miata Generations; Special Editions & Car Colors:

First generation Miatas (NA); 1990-1999: Did you know that in 1989 when Mazda was getting ready to introduce the Miata MX-5 for the start of the 1990 year that the 3 basic colors that Mazda first came out with were Classic Red, Crystal White, and Mariner Blue. Silver Stone Metallic was added in March 1990. A Special Edition color was added for the next three years and after that sometimes two Special Edition colors were added. On the first generation Miata (NA) 1991-1997 each year had a special edition color and generally the accessories were upgraded or a premium feature. These models were called **"M" Editions**. There have been at least one Special Edition Miata in all manufactured years and is usually designated by a special paint color made for that particular year. In 1991 the British Racing Green was the first special edition Miata and had a Tan interior. The next year in 1992 the Sunburst Yellow was a limited production yellow Miata with premium floor mats. 1,519 were made for the USA and 503 for Canada. There was also a Brilliant Black with Tan leather interior. Another Brilliant Black with Red leather followed the next year. In years 1993-1995 the 'M' Editions featured rare BBS wheels, highly sought after in today's market. In 1995 the M Edition was a Merlot Mica with tan leather and top and included a full leather tan cockpit cover. Other special colors including Montego Blue (a blue-green mix) metallic and the Saphire Blue Mica for the 1999 10th Anniversary Edition came out and 7,500 were produced. Carol Lynn Vredeveld has one in mint condition!



were special editions. The second BRG came out in 2001 as an SE. Very popular in 2002 was the Blazing Yellow Mica, and only 1,000 were produced worldwide. In 2005 Mazda came out with a limited edition called Lava Orange Metallic which was also a **MazdaSpeed** with a turbo-charged engine and Mazda made the 'Speeds' in 2004-2005. Strato Blue and other nice colors for the second generation Miata were available in this generation.



The (NC) Miatas started in 2006 thru 2015. The most popular color was Copper Red for several years. The first Soul Red color Miata came out with the 2015 SE which was the 25th Anniversary Edition of which only 300 came to the USA. There are only 2 of them in Utah, Steve Beckstead's and mine. (Just a note, the 25th AE came out in Europe as a 2014 model). Titanium Grey and several other colors as well.



The (ND) Miata (2016 - present year 2026) came out in 2016 and the most popular color was Soul Red. Machine Grey was also popular particularly in the RF (retractable fastback) as it was called. Mazda has had many other special edition colors for the ND. In 2019 the 30th Anniversary Edition in Racing Orange came out and was very popular. It had a black interior with orange ribbing accents on the seats and interior. I really like that one. I'm particularly fond on the new 35th Anniversary Edition Miata in the Artisan Red Metallic with the tan leather top and interior. The Newson's have one!



Many people in the Miata community have wondered why Mazda doesn't come out with many other different and popular colors, and I can't seem to get any information on that subject from Mazda. It's common for manufacturers to limit colors. Some of my Texas friends recently met with some Mazda executives and expressed those concerns and they indicated they would take that back to headquarters in Japan to discuss it, but who knows if that will happen.



New NE Mazda Miata? Miata Concept Cars 2026 by Mike Bailey

We have now had the 4th Generation Miata ND for a decade and it is customary that Mazda has changed the MX-5 Miata usually no longer than within a 10-year time period. These are the current details on the specifications of the 2026 expected NE model for the next generation of our beloved Miata. It is expected to have a normally aspirated Sky-active-G 2.0 liter, 4-cylinder engine however there is still speculation about a hybrid or one with electric powertrain options. Mazda wants to keep the weight to 2,200 lbs. Mazda will include the latest "i-activesense" suite of safety features. Design updates will include sharper styling cues, enhanced aerodynamics and a more refined chassis update. Dates for all this may be for the 2026 or 2027 year models. "Performance first" is a key element and also "pure driving experience" will be key factors. Engine will produce 181 HP at 7,000 rpm with top speed of 137 mph. and 29 mpg fuel economy. Photos on anticipated new looks for exterior!

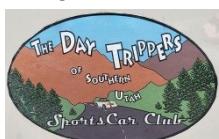


Welcome Returning UMC Member Mark Remington

We'd like to welcome back as a member of the club Mark Remington who was a member back in the early 2,000's. At that time he owned a real nice NC, I think a 2008 White Miata which had tan interior and a gold stripe down the hood. He lives in Santa Clara, a community just northwest of St. George. He also runs the Daytripper's Club which caters to not only Miatas but to all sports car enthusiasts. He schedules many event around the St. George and Las



Vegas area for his group to go to and will also be inviting our club to some of these events this year and in the future. Things that we have not done before as a club. His Miata is no doubt the fastest car in the club as it is powered by a 240 hp (280 hp at the flywheel) 1988 Mustang 302 V8 engine in it.





Anniversary Pins by Mike Bailey



This month the Utah Miata Club will start issuing Anniversary pins to those members who have earned them. For new club members this program has been going on in our club for almost ten years. Each year we award club members who have been members of the club a special designed **"Anniversary"** pin for the number of consecutive years they

have been members of the club. Pins are awarded after the following years: Three, Five, Ten, Fifteen and after 20 years a Lifetime Pin is awarded. These are very nice pins composed of various different metal types; ie: copper, silver, nickel, bronze, and gold. Several have a white background and others are composed of the metal alloys with shades of the above metals on them. The year number is on the bottom.



In the beginning we had a 20 Year Pin and a 25 Year Pin but since about 2020 we dropped those two pins and instead came up with the 'Lifetime' Pin. Members can choose to wear them on their clothing like a shirt or hat. Some have put them on a banner or just keep them at home with other Utah Miata Club related logo items.

In the beginning we passed out the anniversary pins on the month of the member's anniversary that they joined the club. The past several years I've been getting them ready to pass them out at the beginning of the new year. I will be making up a list this month for all members who will be eligible to receive their anniversary pins. You can get them from me at any club meeting or luncheon as I usually have them with me. If you have any questions about these pins please don't hesitate to ask me about them. I don't know of any Miata club has Anniversary pins like ours.



Club Membership Decals:

We have complimentary club membership decals for any new or existing members that may want or need one. These are permanent window sticker decals. Once applied, they cannot be removed. Be sure to place them exactly where you want them on the inside of one of your wing windows or windshield. Just ask me for one at any of the club meetings

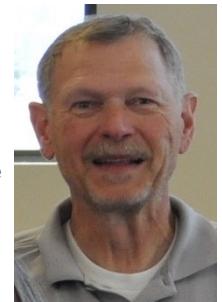
35th Anniversary Pins and Decal Stickers:

I am currently working on a new pin for the club as in mid-2026 will be the club's 35th Anniversary year that the Utah Miata Club was formed and established. We have had a new "Anniversary" logo that features various aspects of the Utah Miata Club since our 5th anniversary in the year 1996. Below are copies of several of our club anniversary milestone logos which were made into sticker decals and/or pins. I will have the 35th Anniversary logo done sometime next month. Of course, it will feature the 35th Anniversary Special Edition Miata and some other past elements.



Modifying Your Miata by Dave Scheurer

So, you're thinking about making some changes to your car. Maybe adding something to give it a little more power, or make it handle better, or just to make it stand out from all the others. Welcome to the world of modifications or "mods." Modifying a car often has negative connotations. Some people associate modifying their car with installing something that's expensive, or loud, or really over the top / in your face, or changing the car to the point that it's obnoxious or undrivable. Yes, some mods fit that description, but there's a lot of others that can be done subtlety and tastefully. When you think about it, just replacing a stock part with an aftermarket part that enhances, improves, or personalizes your car, could be considered a modification.



People modify their cars for various reasons. To name a few:

- 1) To increase horsepower/make it faster, typical mods would be: headers, exhaust, tune, cold air intake, turbocharger, or supercharger kits.
- 2) To improve handling, typical mods would be: coil-overs, stiffer springs, stiffer shocks, sway bars, lightweight or wider wheels, wider tires.
- 3) To make it look better or to personalize it, typical mods would be: front lip, rear spoiler, diffuser, wheel spacers, stripes, wheels, grille, steering wheel.
- 4) To make it safer, typical mods would be: LED lighting, dash cam, roll bar, brake kits, upgraded brake pads, better tires.



Obviously, there are a gazillion more things you could do to your car. Some are easy, some more time consuming, others may take another set of hands or specialized tools, and still others may require professional installation. Some cost as little as \$10, others can easily get into the thousands. Whatever your reason for modding your car, it can certainly be fun and rewarding – and you'll learn a lot along the way.

A word of advice, do your research before taking the plunge. There are many different options that accomplish the same goal. Find out what others have done, what works and what doesn't. As the saying goes, you get what you pay for but sometimes the most expensive version isn't necessarily the one that fits your needs. For example, a \$1000 set of sway bars for someone who tracks their car would probably be overkill for everyday use as a daily driver where a \$350 set would work just fine. There are a number of online forums for research but the most comprehensive one is www.miata.net. Spend some time there first.

After it's all said and done, remember it's your car. It doesn't matter what popular opinion says – do whatever makes your hair blow (with the top down of course).

Now the obligatory warning – modifying your car can be addictive. Start off slow, have a budget, and an end goal in mind, because once you get bitten by the bug and you start down that slippery slope, it can be hard to stop. Ask me how I know (but please don't ask my wife).

Editor's Note: We have several aftermarket companies listed on our club website that offer a lot of different parts and accessories for Miatas. I personally have purchased parts and accessories from these vendors and loved their products. These are logos from some of those vendors. They include MOSS Motors (one of my favorites). These vendors guarantee their products.



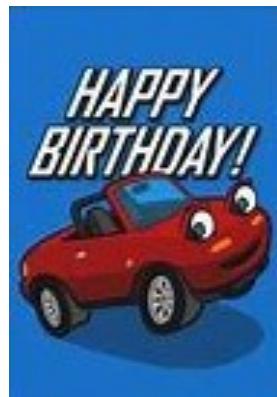
Enjoy these photos of Utah Miata Club's January Birthdays



KAY SCHEURER



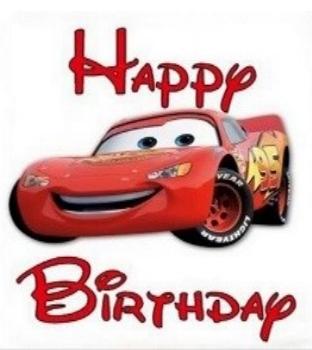
KRISTI DURRANT



ROGER HEATH



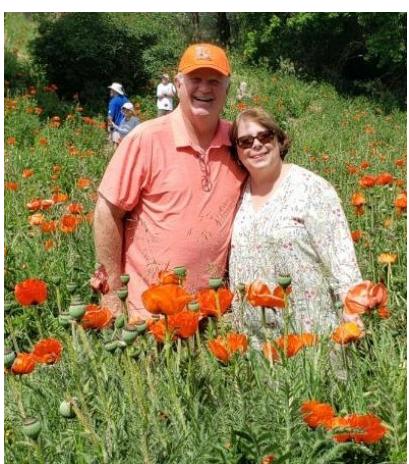
JACKIE NICHOLL



Birthday Celebrations at UMC Luncheons Prize Giveaways Each Month

Photos not Available: Emma Richman, Christopher Wong, Alison Briden

Photos below of Birthday Members:



Miata Swag / Apparel, Car Club Magnets by Mike Bailey



Knit Hats-great for the winter. MX-5 Embroidered on them.

Ball Caps: Standard Structured or Soft Caps for ladies & men. Many colors to choose from: \$25.00 Each. **NEW!** UMC Mountains Logo with 30,000 embroidered stitches: \$25.00, Regularly \$30.00. Official Logo: or Long Live the Roadster Logo:\$25.00 each! Ladies "Miata Hair" soft Caps. \$25.00. Close out Hats: \$20.00



It's club Jacket time as the weather gets cooler. We have official Utah Miata Club Jackets with several options depending on what you like. Or you can have the Club Logo (Official logo or Mountains Logo with color of your Miata) on them. If you like you can provide your own jacket for embroidery of the logo on it. Several colors to choose from. Most come with or without a concealed hood. Jackets have a nice lining in them. They fit neatly behind your seats.

Contact me by preferably email mike@mikebaileyprinting.com or by text at 801-597-1456.



Jackets, Sweatshirts (all styles) pull-over hoodies, crew neck, 1/4 zip, full zip with pockets. Denim Shirts, T-Shirts,



\$25-30.00 depending on style/ brand. These are great for the fall or winter and even spring weather.

"Long Live the Roadster" Polo Shirts in most colors. Also can make them in T-Shirts in any color. Miataitude Shirts in any colors.



MIATA SUPPORT VEHICLE CAR MAGNETS

New Magnets feature the Official Utah Miata

NEW!



Official Club Magnets or Mountains Logo Magnets with color of your Miata on them.

[Miata Support Vehicle Car Magnets are now available!](#)



**UMC CAR MAGNETS: \$25.00 / PAIR
OFFICIAL OR MOUNTAINS LOGO**





2026 Calendar of Events



January 10th: Luncheon 11:00; Movie: Time (TBD): See Pg. 2 NL: Mike & Lynn Bailey

February 7th: Lunch: Red Robin, Play: Desert Star Theater: See Pg. 4 NL: Robert Olsen

March 14th: Antelope Island Drive: Luncheon Place, Time (TBD): Gordy & Jackie Nicholl

April 11th: Luncheon & Drive (TBD): 11:30; Ty & Sue Kiisel

May 9th: Luncheon (TBD) 11:30; Drive Alpine Loop Drive: Mike & Lynn Bailey

June 6th: Luncheon & Drive (TBD): 11:30; Steve & Ronda Beckstead

June 14-15: Dark Sky Observation /Starry Night; Bryce Canyon:

Photography: Ken Jaworski & Robert Mechling

July 18th: Annual Picnic & Business Meeting: Time & Place (TBD): UMC Board

August 9th: Mt. Nebo Loop Drive: Luncheon (TBD): Mike & Kelly Thompson

September 12th: Need Location & Member to Suggest and/or Plan.

October 10th: Need Location & Member to Suggest and/or Plan.

November 14th: Need Location & Member to Suggest and/or Plan.

December 12th: Annual Christmas Party: Time & Place (TBD): UMC Board

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO PLAN OR LEAD A DRIVE OR ACTIVITY!



miatatitude



Editor's Message; We'd like to have UMC members come up with some ideas for possible places for monthly luncheons and drives for our 2025 Calendar. **Refer to open spots on above calendar.** You can just suggest, plan it and/or lead it. On lunch places we prefer somewhere with a private room or area so we can conduct our monthly meeting. Also we need to be able to pay for lunch by couples instead of a group. Also please let us know of some local drives or places you'd like to see or visit. We also like to do a few 'overnighters' or weekend trips. Please send your ideas to either the President or another officer or director or to me, the Newsletter Editor. We hope that all members will be active in club activities. **This is YOUR CLUB so please help us with plan.**

CANDID CAMERA PHOTOS OF THE UTAH MIATA CLUB MEMBERS. SEND ME YOUR FAVORITE PHOTOS OF ANY MEMBERS TO INCLUDE HERE. THANK YOU FOR LETTING US TAKE YOUR PHOTO! TRY TO GUESS WHEN AND WHERE THESE PHOTOS WERE TAKEN



George & Patty Chase



Shirts from Explore Oregon GWA Trip 2022



Baileys, Bob Klinshaw, Nicholls



Great Salt Lake Dinner Cruise—2003



Miatas at Wendover Air Field—Sept. 2023



Amy & Spencer with Tom Matano 2016

