



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



4 GENERATIONS OF THE MIATA



From the Top Down by Mike Thompson

We are grateful to Dr. Phil Hoopes, who hosted our club's May activity. He owns and displays several fully restored British roadsters: TRs and MGs. He indicated that a couple of the cars were into their second or third restoration. Kind of amazing given that they are rarely driven. I daresay his Bentley received as many oohs and aahs as did the convertibles. Thanks to Mike Bailey for making the arrangements.



In high school (Skyline '72), for me, British roadsters were tops. The school was middle class. The parking lot featured a tiny handful of American muscle cars: my BFF's Pontiac GTO, a Chevrolet El Camino with the big block 454, a bright green Plymouth Superbird with the (silly) high-wing rear spoiler and the 426 Hemi, and a '68 Corvette with the 427 and a T-Top. There were probably a few others. But the everyday cars were like my (mother's) '59 Ford Fairlane—which I drove one day each week during my senior year. The newer cars were similar to my neighbor's '71 Pinto. In the main there were sedans and station wagons.

In all that, the cars that caught my heart were British Roadsters: a good friend's 1960 Triumph TR3 and another friend's 1962 Austin Healey. In fact, I really wanted a Triumph TR6, though I would have "settled" for a TR250. It turns out I didn't want either enough to get serious about buying. Pre-owned models could be had for around \$2,000.

I was working 10 – 15 hours a week, after school, and making \$1.25 / hour. Do the math. If I had saved every penny, it would have taken more than 3 years. They might as well have cost a million.

Fast forward to 2016. Our four children are in various stages of adulthood, and we have just returned to the USA (Florida) after living several years in Chile. 'You know what? I'm going to finally get me that TR6.' It didn't take much research to determine that a person who buys a 40+ year-old TR6 is a person who likes working on cars. Not me. Was there a roadster that would be fun to drive, reliable, and within my budget? A 2008 Miata became my daily driver in Florida's year-round top-down weather. I sold it in 2021 (a year after joining the UMC) and bought a 2015 Miata PRHT. Loved it. This year we gave ourselves a retirement gift, by upgrading to a 2022 Miata Grand Touring soft-top (see elsewhere in this issue). We have so much fun getting together with the club and driving our cars. I hope you all feel the same!

Mike

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June Luncheon & Drive by Mike Bailey



When: Saturday, June 14, 2025 Time: 11:30 A.M.

Where: Leatherby's Family Creamery Restaurant

Address: 1872 West 5400 South, Taylorsville, Utah 84118

Meet in the private dining room on west end of restaurant.



Our monthly luncheon will be at Leatherby's Restaurant at the Taylorsville location. We will conduct our monthly meeting there and discuss the upcoming annual July Summer Picnic and BBQ details as well as our upcoming Election & Planning meeting at this event in July. See other information on this elsewhere in this newsletter. Please let Mike Thompson know in advance of any items you'd like to bring up or discuss at this meeting. We will be ordering off the menu and remember Leatherby's offers many fabulous desserts so save room for dessert! We will do our drive after the luncheon to Wolf Creek Pass. Hopefully it won't rain like it did in 2023.



After Luncheon Drive up Wolf Creek Pass

After the luncheon we will line up for our drive up to Wolf Creek Pass. We'll take I-215 to Parley's Canyon and Hwy. 40 turnoff to Heber Valley and take Hwy. 32 turnoff at south end of Jordanelle Reservoir to Francis. Traveling to Woodland and Wolf Creek Peak and on to Hanna and Tabiona. To go back home, at 'Fire to Fire' we'll take the right hand turnoff to go to Hwy. 40 and when reaching that, turn right to Fruitland and to Heber City. You can choose to drive along Deer Creek Reservoir to Provo Canyon or go back through Heber City to Salt Lake Valley or northbound. For adventurers, you can turn-off up to Sundance and go up the Alpine Loop. This will be a fun day drive. Photos from previous drives.



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. A single membership is \$25 for the year, and a dual membership is \$35. If your name is among the personalized reminders below, at our next activity please hand a check—payable to the Utah Miata Club—to Margie Newson, Club Treasurer. If you prefer you may mail a check to 233 W 1550 N, Bountiful, UT 84010. If you have questions Margie may be contacted at 801-295-4563, or by email at sec.treasumc@icloud.com. You may also submit payment by cash, money order or Venmo @ utahmiataclub. It will show Marjorie Newson@utahmiataclub. If prompted for confirmation, last 4 digits of phone # are 1596. [Please Renew your Membership on month it is due!](#)

Birthdays / Memberships



New Members

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
JEFF & KRISTI DURRANT	2008	COPPER RED

Expiring Soon: \$35 Dual -\$25 Single /Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRING SOON
AMY BECKSTEAD	6/30/2025
JAMES FELIZ	6/30/2025
ROGER & PERLY HEATH	6/30/2025
HANK & REXANNE POND	6/30/2025

Memberships Expired / Please Renew Now

NAME	EXPIRED
MIKE HINMAN	4/30/2025
MIKE & KELLY THOMPSON	5/31/2025



Removed From Roster

NAME	EXPIRED
JORDON & TIFFANY BIGALOW	2/28/2025
RICHARD LANE	2/28/2025
PHILLIP & NICOLE LIFSEY	2/28/2025



NAME	DATE
CHRISTI HEADEY	3 Jun
MARK MIDGLEY	3JUN
MIKE THOMPSON	3 Jun
JANET CICHOCKI	7 Jun
MIKE HINMAN	7 Jun
PATTY ADAMS	14 Jun
HANK POND	14 Jun
CARLOS APONTE	15 Jun
RACHEL WOODS	15JUN
ROBERT OLSEN	18 Jun
RYAN RICHMAN	18 Jun
JEFF MOON	19 Jun
SUSAN CHRISTIANSEN	20 Jun
ROBERT HANSHEW	22 Jun
KIRK WARNER	22 Jun
KENT HOUSLEY	23 Jun
MICHAEL FLEMING	24 Jun
JIM BICKLEY	28 Jun
SPENCE WOOD	29 Jun



Club Officers (July 2024 -- July 2025)

President: Michael Thompson Vice President: Ken Jaworski Secretary: Jim Newson Treasurer: Margie Newson
Directors: Robert Mechling, Susan Christiansen, Carol Lynn Vredeveld Newsletter Editor: Michael Bailey



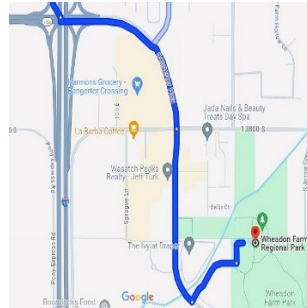
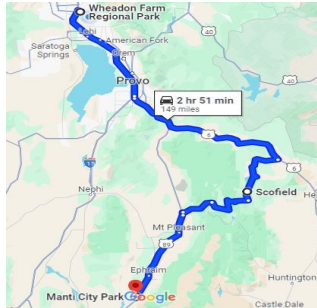
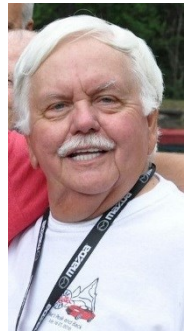
24TH ANNUAL ED "BIG DADDY" ROTH'S RAT FINK REUNION

WHEN: SATURDAY JUNE 7, 2025; 9:00 AM

By Steve Beckstead

WHERE: 404 E. 300 N. MANTI, UTAH

The **"Big Daddy" Roth's Rat Fink Reunion** will be lots of fun. We plan to meet at 9:00 a.m. at Wheadon Park in Draper, which is 140th South Bangerter Parkway (see map). Members should eat breakfast before and/or bring a snack to have in the park or on the drive. **We will have a short business meeting and be on the road by 9:30 a.m.** The other map is the route from the park to Manti. We will drive via Scofield Reservoir, a scenic drive before arriving in Manti around 1:00 pm or earlier, depending on stops. It is less than a 3 hour drive. If the weather is bad, we will adjust the route by going down Hwy. 89 and to Thistle.



After arriving in Manti we'll be on our own or break into small groups. Food trucks and restaurants available for lunch or dinner. There will be an awesome Car Show and there is **"Big Daddy" Ed Roth's Museum and Store** where you can purchase Rat Fink merchandise items. Live music and bands! **Park Address: 200 N. 300 W. Rat Fink Museum & Store: 404 East 300 N. Manti.** There will be lots of artists there who can put pin-striping on your Miata or any customizing you like. There will be souvenir posters and the official Rat Fink T-Shirts, etc. for sale. You can stay as long as you like and leave when you want. We will probably go home via Hwy. 89 or a quicker way is Hwy. 132 north to Moroni / Nephi and then I-15 home. Stay as long as you want if you like! This is *always* a FUN event! See the LDS Temple!



Idaho Summer 2025 Trip by Roger Heath

July 9th—July 13th 2025

A 4 night / 5 day midsummer cruise through central Idaho's National Forests. Taking a clockwise route we'll stop in Challis, McCall, Missoula and Idaho Falls. Daily drives are 300 miles or less so we should have time to sightsee or wander around the towns we're staying in. On Saturday, July 12th, those that wish can take a detour out to visit Big Hole National Battlefield on the way to Idaho Falls.



Dates:

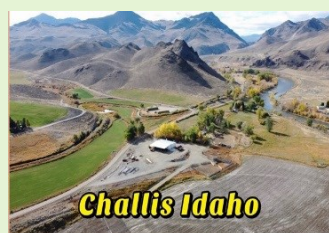
July 9th - 9:00 AM, meet at Beez Cafe in Roy, 5410 S 1900 W, Roy, Utah
Drive to Challis- 293 miles

July 10th - 9:00 AM, drive from Challis to McCall 213 miles

July 11th - 9:00 AM, drive from McCall to Missoula 263 miles

July 12th - 9:00 AM, drive from Missoula to Idaho Falls 300 miles

July 13th - Leave at your leisure as this is the day to drive home



Suggested Lodging: Book Hotels NOW for best rates!

July 9th Challis - Red Rock Lodge 208-879-4936

<https://rrlodge.net>, hotels.com, [Expedia.com](https://expedia.com)

July 10th McCall - Super 8 by Wyndham McCall 800-454-3213

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/mccall-idaho/super-8-mccall/overview>

July 11th Missoula - Super 8 by Wyndham Missoula / Reserve Street Phone: 800-454-3213

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/super-8/missoula-montana/super-8-missoula-reserve-st/overview>

July 12th Idaho Falls - Best Western Driftwood Inn Direct: 208-523-2242 Toll Free: 800-780-7234

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-idaho-falls/best-western-driftwood-inn/propertyCode.13005.html



July Summer Picnic / Elections & Planning Meeting

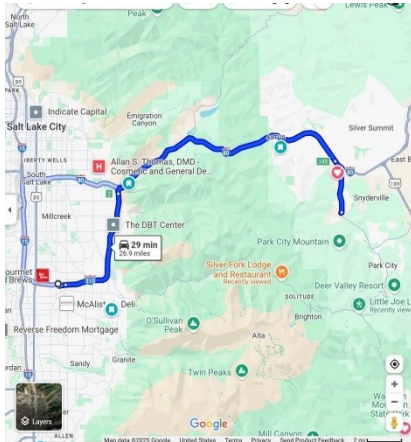
by Ken Jaworski

When: Saturday, July 19, 2025 Time about 1:00 pm.

Place: Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

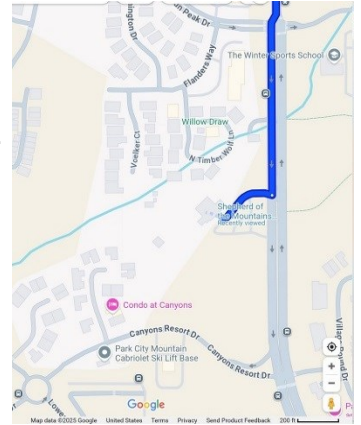
Address: 4051 N. Highway 224 (UT-224) Park City, Utah 84098

For those in Salt Lake Valley we will meet at the UTA Park & Ride Lot at 950 E. 6600 S. Murray, Utah and will drive up to Park City via I-215. Mike Bailey or another volunteer from the club will lead the drive (please let us know if anyone is interested). Others coming from the North can make their own way to Park City. There are two entrances to the parking lot about 100 yards apart. The temperature should be about 10-15 degrees cooler than in SLC. Food items will be similar to last year's July picnic with meat and cheese trays with condiments for sandwiches and members furnishing salads, snack items like chips and/or desserts. There will be a full kitchen as well as interior and exterior seating and bathrooms.



We will have our annual business meeting followed by our **Elections for the 2025-2026 year**. Please let any officers or directors know if you are interested in running for an office which includes: President, Vice President, and 3 Director's positions or if you would like to nominate someone.

After the Elections we will have our **Annual Events & Planning Meeting** for the following year's activities calendar. More details will follow in next month's newsletter and also posted on our club Facebook page. Photos of some past elections and planning meetings.



Miata of the Month by Mike Bailey



Miata of the Month is of our Club President, Mike & Kelly Thompson. As mentioned in his 'Top Down' article for this month, he has owned at least three Miatas that I know of. It's hard not to get the "Miata Fever" as some people in the Miata world call it. I've had this fever for almost 30 years now and think I will be driving a Miata



the rest of my life, or even if I can't drive anymore, Lynn will still be able to drive me around. When I was ill with Covid and in a wheelchair, that didn't stop me from wanting to be in my Miata. I had to sell both the 6-speed manual transmissions as I had a hard time with the clutch with my feet and leg problems, but that's ok! I have come to love the Automatic and the paddle-shifters, especially on curvy mountain roads!

Mike and Kelly just got a new 2022 Grand Touring soft-top in the Platinum Quartz Metallic color which I have to say is one of my favorite ND colors. This is as awesome 'retirement' gift to themselves! It has the brown Terracotta leather seats which go well with the color. This is a fantastic looking Miata. Enjoy these photos of the 'Miata of the Month'.



UMC BOARD MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

by Michael Thompson



Our quarterly Board Meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM.**

Location: Bountiful Mazda, Meet in private board room on 2nd floor of the dealership. Address: 2815 South Main Street, Bountiful, Utah 84010.



The main purposes of the meeting are: (1) Review the progress of plans with respect to the 2025 Annual Meeting which takes place at the Annual Summer Picnic and Party on Saturday, July 19th (see details on that on page 6 of this newsletter). (2) Discuss candidates for the officers and board members for the 2025-2026 calendar year term. Krispy Kreme donuts will be provided as treats!

Also Please note that the club has instituted a Survey Monkey link for proposing future important club meetings for voting on the best date for these meetings and other club business. We also have a new club email for club business and it is "utahmiataclub@yahoo.com".

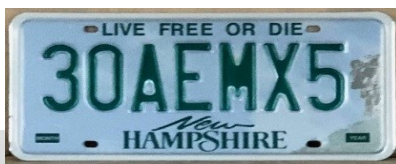


Miata Club Vanity Plates by Mike Bailey

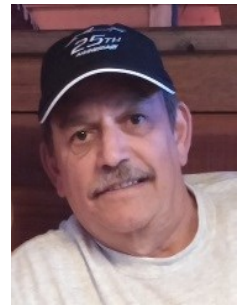
Personalized Vanity plates are quite popular and have been for a very long time. I have always had them on my vehicles since I started to drive. Every Miata as well as my other personal vehicles have had them. They can reference most anything that is important in your life or activities you engage in. Most people in Miata clubs have personalized plates for their Miatas. I have displayed most of mine and many other club member's plates. They usually require an extra charge for the Motor Vehicle Department to make them as some plates also require a fee to use them like the new Black Plate that Utah has come out with to commemorate the *Utah Historical Society*. The color of this plate goes back to the 1960's when the black Utah plate was popular. I would encourage anyone in the club to get a personalized Vanity plate for their Miata! Below are some of my favorite Vanity plates! I do have photos of 100's of them!



Below are



Miataland 2025 by Mike Bailey



Twelve of us are going to Miataland in October of this year! I'm pretty excited about this as Donn Cichocki and I planned this trip for two years for October 2020. Then Covid came along so we had to cancel it and rescheduled the trip for October 2021. I was very sick from Covid and in the hospital with my complications and Donn had his own medical problems during this time so we both could not make the trip. We had to live it through the photos that members from our club took. Karen Christiansen, our UMC travel agent thought it was time that we made this trip so she planned this trip for us. A dozen Miata people are going; Bailey's, Cichocki's, Chase's, Ortiz's and another couple sets of Miata people from the Big Apple New York club, whom have



been with us on other Miata trips. We are looking forward to this adventure! The trip will include traveling to Rome, and then to Bologna to see the Ferrari and Lamborghini factories and museums like our group did in 2021 as well as to Lake Como for a couple days in Northern Italy. Some will see Pompeii and other places of interest. A few of us will be traveling to Iceland on the way home.





BRYCE CANYON INN

EST. 2006



Fall Leaf Drive: 2025 by Roger Heath

September 26-28, 2025 2 Nights / 3 days



After skipping a year it's time for another fall overnighter to check out the changing colors of central Utah. Once again we'll spend nights in Tropic located in Southern Utah. Saturday will be a free day to check out the local attractions - Bryce Canyon NP, Kodachrome State Park or Cedar Breaks. Go on your own or with several others in the group!

For those that have gone in the past, the route will be familiar. A change to this year's drive will be the choice of an alternate route home. We can choose between what has been done previously - driving to Fish Lake then taking Gooseberry Road to Salina and north on Hwy 89 to Nephi. Or, we can take a backroad to Cedar Breaks, head through Brian Head ski area and into Parowan then I-15 home.

Itinerary:

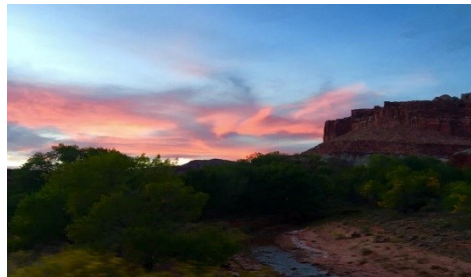
Friday, Sept 26th, 8:30 AM - Meet at Harmon's Bangerter Crossing, 125 E. 13800 S., Draper, Utah. Drive to Tropic.

Saturday, Sept 27th, free day - Do what you like and drive to several options of places or points of interest around the area that you'd like to see!

Sunday, Sept 28th, head home - Several options for the drive home.

Suggested lodging - Bryce Canyon Inn brycecanyoninn.com Phone: 435-679-8502 or Toll Free: 1-800-592-1468. Some large double room cabins available. Destination Address: 21 North Main St., Tropic, Utah 84776

Book NOW: Accommodations fill up fast. Other lodging in Bryce Canyon City.



Enjoy these photos of Utah Miata Club's June's Birthdays



SHAUNA MILLGATE



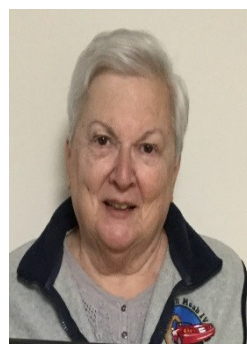
CHRISTY HEADY



MICHAEL THOMPSON



MARK MIDGLEY



JANET CICHOCKI



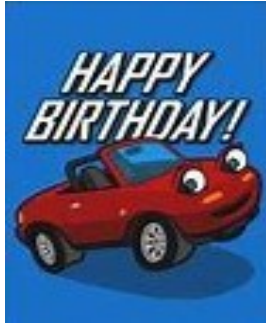
PATTY ADAMS



JEFF MOON



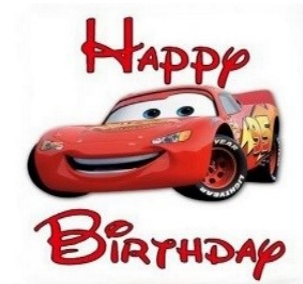
SHAREE BECKSTEAD



SUSAN CHRISTIANSEN



HANK POND



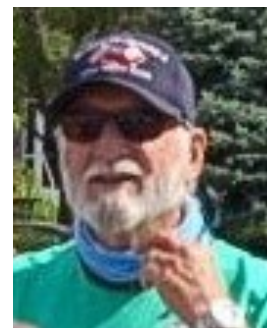
RACHEL WOODS



ROBERT OLSEN



KENT HOUSLEY



JIM BICKLEY



SPENCE WOOD



KIRK WARNER

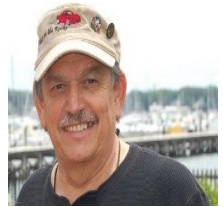


ROBERT HANSHEW



Miata Swag / Apparel, Car Club Magnets

By MiataWear Man: Mike Bailey



Please Note: I will be giving away for **FREE** some of Lynn's Sweat Shirts and T-Shirts that no longer fit her. All are in good condition and have been cleaned and laundered. Also some of my XL shirts. I consider these 'collector' items from our many past 'Miatas in Utah events.' First come, first served on all these items.



NEW !!!

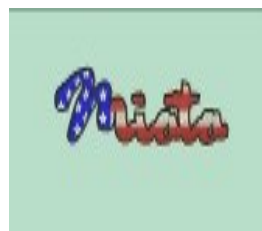
Apparel for Trip to *MiataLand*



I'm making up some new apparel for our MiataLand trip and it will be available to all club members. Please let me know if you are interested in any items, whether you are participating in this event or not!

Items available include the following: Polo Shirts (event logo on front only). T-Shirts or Sweat-Shirts or a light-weight Wind Breaker Jacket; Event logo on front and back to include Map. Ball Caps with Event Logo. Artwork is in the works and will be out soon. Please

get on the monthly list passed around at meetings or contact me by preferably email mike@mikebaileyprinting.com or by text at 801-597-1456.



Ball Caps: Standard Structured or Soft Caps for ladies & men. Many colors to choose from: \$20.00 Each. **NEW!** UMC Mountains Logo with 30,000 embroidered stitches: \$25.00, Regularly \$30.00. Official Logo: or Long Live the Roadster Logo: \$20.00 each! Ladies "Miata Hair" soft Caps. \$20.00. Close out Hats: \$15.00



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





2025 Calendar of Events



June 7th: Rat Fink Car Show-Drive to Manti: See Pg. 4 NL: Steve & Ronda Beckstead

June 14th: Club Luncheon & Drive: Leatherby's; Wolf Creek: See Pg. 2 NL; Mike Bailey

July 5th: Impromptu Annual Holiday Canyon Drive; Mirror Lake Hwy. Mike & Lynn Bailey

July 9-13th: Idaho Summer Trip; Idaho-Montana Scenery: See Pg. 5 NL; Roger Heath

July 19th: Summer Picnic/Elections-Planning Meeting; Park City; See Pg. 6 NL; Jaworski's

August 9th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) **Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan.**
Suggestions: Bear Lake via Huntsville Roads UT-39 & UT-30. Or Alpine Loop.

September 13th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) **Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan.**
Suggestions: Big Cottonwood Canyon over Guardsman's Pass or Little Cottonwood Can.

September 26 - 28th: Fall Leaf Drive: Bryce Canyon, Utah; See Pg. 10 NL; Roger Heath

October 11th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) **Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan**

November 8th: Luncheon: 11:30 (TBD) **Need Location & Member to Suggest or Plan**

December 13th: Christmas Party; Edison Events, Time (TBD); UMC Board of Directors



PLEASE SIGN UP WITH EDITOR TO SUGGEST, PLAN OR LEAD A DRIVE FOR 2025



Be sure to support our local Mazda Dealership **BOUNTIFUL MAZDA** for a New or Used Car and for your Service and Parts.



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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

