

# RAGTOPS TO RIDGES



JULY 2017

## "THE CONVERTIBLE CHRONICLES OF THE UTAH MIATA CLUB"



### From the Top Down

Presidents Message

Submitted by: Lou Vredeveld

What a great time of the year! What makes it even better is being a member of such a fun sports car club. We are now well into the driving season and have been enjoying many events and drives. This has been a crazy, early summer this year! Some days have been in the 60s while others are hot and in the 90s. Myself I prefer it to be in the mid-70s to enjoy top down drives. We started the month of June with our luncheon/ breakfast at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in West Valley. It was a good thing we were there early as it really got busy about the time we were ready to leave. We had another super turnout with more than 42 people attending which included

our newest member Joe Feliz. Also, Will and Vincent, a couple of Miata enthusiasts, that were also at the restaurant, asked if they could join us for our meeting and drive to see what the Miata Club was all about. We had a good get together and would like to thank Mark and Susan for all their planning. Mark had organized a drive but was unable to attend so our Vice Pres. Steve Beckstead led the drive on his behalf. After lunch our drive included 20 cars heading west on Bacchus Road down around the west side of Utah Lake over through Goshen Canyon to Nephi and up the Mount Nebo Loop. Unfortunately the road was still snowed in up on top so we had to turn around after about 8 miles. On the way back down we stopped at the Devils Kitchen for a photo opp. at this scenic area that resembles a mini Bryce Canyon. Mike took some great photos and I'm sure he will post them for all to enjoy because that's what Mike does! We also had an



[www.utahmiataclub.org](http://www.utahmiataclub.org)

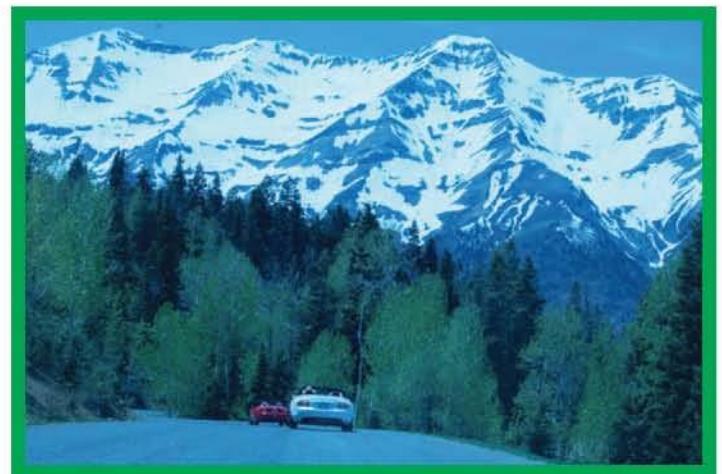
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impromptu drive Friday the 16th and had 11 cars show up at the Park and Ride at the base of Big Cottonwood Canyon. We took an evening drive over Guardsman's Pass and down Pine Canyon through Midway to the Dairy Keen in Heber, a 70 year old landmark in the area. What a great Miata adventure! We stopped for dinner and ice cream, then split up and headed home. Half of us drove back the same way we come and others took the Provo Canyon route home. All in all it was a very fun evening, many thanks to Amy and Steve for putting this event together. It would be fun to put more of these great evening drives together especially now that the days are getting hotter. July is going to bring one of the largest events ever planned by the Utah Miata Club. Some of our members will be embarking on a 15 Day Viking River Cruise all through Europe. Some members have even extended their trip to include more time in some of these beautiful destinations. It must be fun to be retired.... wait... that's me! Jokingly, I have asked for a designated survivor to be secured in a bunker during this time as

many of the club elected officials will be on this excursion. As of this date I have no volunteers (imagine that)! Our August Luncheon/BBQ will be on the 12th at the home of Susan and Mark Vaughn. Again they have stepped up to promote and host our club. Thanks again you two. I would like to thank all the members of this fantastic club for all the hard work making it happen. Please check out the web site and monthly newsletter to see the upcoming and past events of our club.



**Ragtops to Ridges is the Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club and is the club's official newsletter. It is published monthly and presents information on club news, activities and events. All information and photos are property of the Utah Miata Club.**

President:  
Lou Vredeveld

Vice President:  
Steve Beckstead

Secretary:  
Jim Newson

Treasurer:  
Margie Newson

Directors:  
Mike Bailey, Spence Wood, Doyle Sturm  
Honorary Director: Gordy Nicholl

Newsletter Editor:  
Crystal Miller

Webmaster:  
Doyle Sturm





# NEW MEMBERS

JOE (JAMES) FELIZ  
2017 RF GRAY

CHUCK & DIANE GRAHAM  
2015 WHITE

**WELCOME TO THE CLUB**  
**VISIT: [WWW.UTAHMIATACLUB.ORG](http://WWW.UTAHMIATACLUB.ORG)**  
**OR [WWW.UTAHMIATACLUB.COM](http://WWW.UTAHMIATACLUB.COM)**

NAME	DATE
NANCY SINGER	4 Jul
AMY BECKSTEAD	5 Jul
VALERIE FRANCIS	14 Jul
RICHARD DELAND	15 Jul
SHYLO BAZZAZ	16 Jul
FRANCIS HUTTON	23 Jul

## EXPIRING SOON

NAME	DATE
MIKE & LYNN BAILEY	7/31/2017
ALI & SHYLO BAZZAZ	7/31/2017
JOHN CARPENTER	7/31/2017
DONN & JANET CICHOCKI	7/31/2017
ROBERT CUNLIFFE	7/31/2017
JOSEPH EAMES	7/31/2017
MARK & CHARISSE FURGUSON	7/31/2017
CRAIG & CANDY HENDRIX	7/31/2017
KELVIN & MARY MCKNIGHT	7/31/2017
ROBERT SMITH	7/31/2017
GARY C. WILCOX	7/31/2017

## EXPIRING MEMBERSHIPS

NAME	DATE
AMY BECKSTEAD	6/30/2017
JIM & MARILYN BICKLEY	6/30/2017
TERESA BLACK	5/31/2017
JOY CARLSON	6/30/2017
BEN COHEN	5/31/2017
CATHY CORDILL	4/30/2017
RICHARD DELAND	3/31/2017
WILLEY & LINDA GERLACH	5/31/2017
ROBERT & GALE KLINSHAW	6/30/2017
BRADLEY LOWE	4/30/2017
DANIEL & JOY MITCHELL	5/31/2017
LARRY & KATHY PETERSEN	4/30/2017
HANK & REXANNE POND	6/30/2017
RICH & NANCY SINGER	3/31/2017
DARWIN & LORI STEED	6/30/2017
RICHARD TEASDALE	4/30/2017
JEFF WIGHT	5/31/2017
SPENCER WOOD	5/31/2017



## Membership Dues Reminder

If you wish to renew your membership, and we hope you will, please give or send a check to Club Treasurer, Margie Newson, for the appropriate amount. It is \$25 if you have the newsletter emailed to you or \$45 if you would like a hard copy sent by standard mail. You can also pay your dues online on our website: [utahmiataclub.org](http://utahmiataclub.org) with PayPal online. This method is \$27 (the extra covers PayPal fees.) If mailing a check, please send it to: 233 West 1550 North, Bountiful, Utah 84010 (Phone 801-295-4563) and make it out to Utah Miata Club. Margie can also be contacted at the following email address: [sec.treasurmc@icloud.com](mailto:sec.treasurmc@icloud.com)



## July Luncheon and Drive

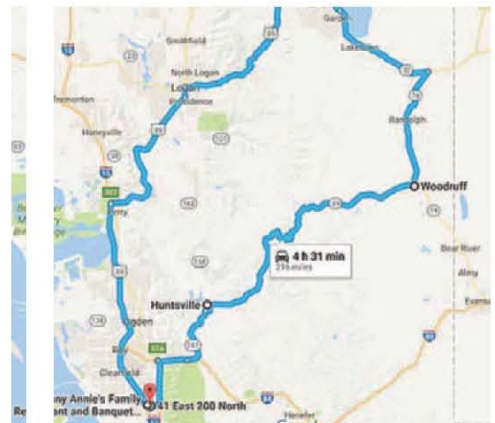
By Steve Beckstead

**Luncheon: Saturday, July 1, 2017 Time: 11:30 A.M.**

**Where: Grannie Annie's in Kaysville, Utah**

**Address: 286 North 400 West in Kaysville.**

Okay Convertible people, our Luncheon is on Saturday, July 1st. We will meet up north at Grannie Annie's in Kaysville at 11:30 followed by a long scenic drive up through Logan Canyon to Garden City. By then we'll be craving a raspberry shake at La Beaus by Bear Lake. Then hit the road South to Woodruff and through the twisty through the mountains to Huntsville. This is a 4.5 hour drive not counting stops, but it's Summer, let's do a nice top down drive!! Hope to see you there.



### Attention Utah Club Members:

Due to the fact that most of the Newsletter Staff will be gone in July for the Viking River Cruise, we will probably not have an August Newsletter. Most will not get back until the first of August. We know you will miss the newsletter. If anyone wants to take the duty on to get an August Newsletter made up and sent out, please do so. You can forward your articles and photos to our Newsletter Editor, Crystal Miller at [alfirinsereg@gmail.com](mailto:alfirinsereg@gmail.com). Thank you.

### August Luncheon: Saturday, August 12, 2017, 11:30 AM:

The Club Luncheon and Meeting will be at the home of Mark & Susan Vaughn for a Club BBQ. Address is 5792 Walden Glen Drive, Murray, Ut. 84123. Details will go out in a "Blanket Email Blast" on what we will be doing and on food. Most likely it may be a pot luck but details to follow.

### Tuachan Weekend: Thursday, August 3-5, 2017:

Susan and Mark Vaughn will be going to Tuachan in St. George for this weekend to see three plays; "Shrek, The Musical", "Mamma Mia", and "Newsies". The Vaughns will be staying at the BW Abbey Inn. Prices will be expensive this weekend as lots of things are going on in St. George. Call for hotel rates or check out other Best Westerns in town for best rates. Tickets at [tuachan-ampitheatre.ticket-center.com](http://tuachan-ampitheatre.ticket-center.com).

The Club wishes to express condolences to Ronda (and Steve) Beckstead at the passing of Ronda's brother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



## MATTSE Trip

by Mike Bailey, Lou Vredeveld

The MATTSE trip organized by President and Vice President Lou Vredeveld and Steve Beckstead respectively, will be August 21 - 26, 2017 to view a phenomenon that has only occurred once in the past 99 years in the United States; the total solar eclipse of the sun. It will have a 70 mile-wide zone of totality in its path which stretches from the Oregon coast to Charleston, South Carolina. For us in the west, it will pass through northern Idaho and Wyoming. I hope everyone has their hotel rooms lined up as this event will be totally booked out. I have heard on the news that the area expects from one half million to one million people to come, just to Idaho and Wyoming. With a year in the planning stages, the UMC will be headed to Rawlins, Wyoming where we stay and then view the eclipse on August 21st. up in Casper which is in the center of the Eclipse path.

We will then make an additional five day trip through Wyoming and through the

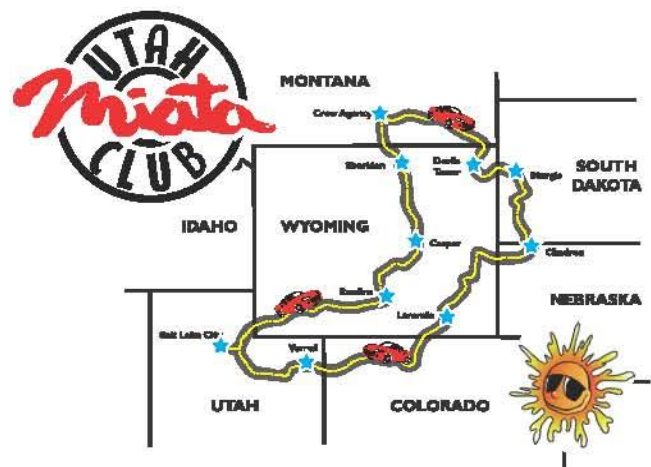
southeast corner of Montana, down through northeastern Wyoming and through western South Dakota to take in sites such as Devil's Tower, Sturgis, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Wall Drug, the Needles Highway and many other exciting places. In all it will be a 1,770 mile trip taking in six states (Nebraska and Colorado included). We have several other Miata travelers from back east joining us on this fun trip.



## MATTSE

### 2017 Total Eclipse of the Sun

1,770 Miles - August 21-26-1017



# UMC Miata Challenge

by Todd Christopher & Mike Bailey

The Miata Club Challenge was announced several months ago at our luncheons. Todd has put together a very fun and interesting Challenge for all club members to participate in through the Summer and until the end of this year. *Only 3 things are required of you to participate: Your Miata, bringing any copy of this year's Newsletter (to be used in the photographs taken) and your "desire" to do participate in this event.*

Prizes will be awarded to the winners at the end of the year at our annual Christmas Holiday Party. Print out a copy of the Challenge off the club website found under events at [www.utahmiataclub.org](http://www.utahmiataclub.org). Review the questions and clues on second page and take photos. Most of all, *have fun* while doing this and driving your Miata.

## 2017 UTAH MIATA CLUB DRIVING CHALLENGE

### Instructions

This challenge is intended to get you driving your Miata and increasing your smiles per gallon! Every picture must include your car (enough of it to tell it's your car) and a 2017 newsletter cover page or this form. The required location / object / person must be clearly visible in the picture. In the case of a tie, extra points will be awarded for originality and/or humor. Pictures and this completed challenge sheet must be turned in by the Halloween Party. Winners will be announced at the Christmas Party and receive a special prize. The decision of the judges will be final.

**Good luck and Zoom-Zoom!**

### Destinations

Take a picture of your car at the destination listed. Destinations marked with an asterisk (\*) require a sign in the picture.

### Roadside Oddities

Take a picture of your car near a 'roadside oddity'. Use the website <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/location/ut/all> as a guide, but other 'oddities' are welcome!

### History of the Automobile

Take a picture of your car with an automobile from each decade. Bonus points will be awarded if the other car is also a roadster!

### Club Participation

Take a picture of your car at the club meeting location or the associated club cruise group photo. Be sure that the location is obvious and identifiable.

### Cities, Counties and States

Take a picture of your car with a sign for a city, county or state starting with each letter of the alphabet. 'Salt Lake City' will count only for 'S', but 'Salt Lake City, Utah' can be used for 'S' and 'U'.

### Bonus

**Place of Personal Significance** – Take a picture of your car at a location of great personal meaning to you. Write a paragraph / short story about that experience. Include as many items / people as possible from your story in the picture.

**Twins** – Take a picture of your car with another of the same model, body style and color. The more identical the two cars, the more points you earn! Look for similarities in wheels, top color, etc.

**Plus 10** – An additional 10 points will be awarded for each of the above five above categories that are completed in full.



## Welcome New Member; Joe Feliz

by Mike Bailey

We would like to welcome new member Joe Feliz to the club. He called me last month and wanted to know more about the Miata Club. I invited him to our June luncheon. He just purchased a new 2017 Machine Grey RF (Retractable Fastback) Miata and is very happy to own it. He had a real treat on his first drive with the club on the west side of Utah Lake, Goshen Canyon and up Mt. Nebo Loop. I got to try out all the twisties. Joe mentioned to me how much fun it was. Welcome to the club Joe.

*(sorry my camera was on the wrong setting so photos are not color corrected or bright on this page).*



## Miata of the Month / Vanity Plate

by Mike Bailey

July's Miata of the Month and Vanity Plate is Steve and Ronda Beckstead's 1992 Sunburst Yellow, first generation Miata. It has been very well taken care of and has been handed down, so to speak, from various club members, namely Dave and Ana Porter. It has seen a few homes in it's time but this particular Miata is one of the nicer ones around.

They also have a personalized Vanity plate MLW YLW which stands for "Mellow Yellow". A couple of mellow but outgoing owners of this beautiful Miata.



# Viking River Cruise

by Mike Bailey

Here we are three years to the day after Donn Cichocki and myself started to plan this Viking River Cruise to Europe. It is finally here and we are getting all packed up and ready to leave. A lot of planning has gone into this event and we have filled the 95 cabin suites of the Viking Long-boat ship. 80% or more of the people are Miata people coming from all over the United States representing many Miata clubs in the country from Florida to California and the Mountain West to New York. It will be a very fun trip. I will share photos of our adventures when we return. Until then, Bon Voyage!







## 2018 UTAH MIATA CLUB: WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE

**8 Days: February 25 - March 4, 2018**

### Itinerary:

Day 1: Galveston, Texas Port; Sight-Seeing in Galveston  
 Day 2: Day at Sea Cruising; Relax, Unwind, Enjoy the Sun  
 Day 3: Cozumel, Mexico      Day 4: George Town, Grand Cayman  
 Day 5: Falmouth, Jamaica      Day 6: Day at Sea Cruising  
 Day 7: Day at Sea Cruising      Day 8: Galveston, Texas



**Join us for an exciting 8 Day Cruise to the Western Caribbean on the Liberty of the Seas.**



Photos: Outside Balcony Suite



Surfing onboard the Ship



*Invite your Miata family and friends. Everyone is welcome.* The cruise leaves from the port of Galveston, Texas. You will probably want to get into Galveston a day early to enjoy the city and exciting things to do and also in case of flight delays. This ship features 10 different Dining options, including “My Time Dining” where you can eat at different tables. We have some cabin blocks reserved for our group at discounted prices as follows:

**Category N:** Inside Cabins starting at \$349.00 per person. **Category PR:** Inside Cabins with view to the Promenade at \$419.00 per person. **Category I:** Outside Cabins with window starting at \$439.00 per person. **Category D3:** Outside Cabins with Balcony starting at \$679.00 per person. **Category D2:** Outside Cabins with Balcony starting at \$689.00 per person. **Category E1:** Deluxe Outside Cabins with Balcony at \$759.00 per person. Larger cabins are currently available and so are cabins with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> person in cabin. Prices above do not include Port Fees of \$190.00 per person and taxes are \$81.70 per person. **Prices subject to change, so please book early.** Prices will increase over time. Check Royal Caribbean website for Deck Plan and details. **Book this cruise through our Travel Group Agent; Amber Lee Johanson at Morris Murdock Travel; 801-483-6314. Email Amber at: [ajohanson@morrismurdock.com](mailto:ajohanson@morrismurdock.com). Deposit per person is \$250.00. Reserve NOW for \$50.00.** When you select your cabin you pay the rest of deposit. **Be sure to also email Mike Bailey so I can keep track of who is going.** [mike@mikebaileyprinting.com](mailto:mike@mikebaileyprinting.com) or phone with questions; 801-597-1456. Refundable deposit if canceled 90 days prior to sailing date. See Amber for details Also you can get other discounts with your “Crown & Anchor” Membership, depending on the category you have. This is an Official Utah Miata Club Cruise! Come Join Us!

# Orem Mazda Car Show

by Mike Bailey

Orem Mazda, our Dealer Sponsor, put on their First Annual Auto Extravaganza. It was at the Orem Mazda Dealership in Orem, Utah. It was organized by MJ MacDonald and featured a Car Show, live music, live radio remotes and complete with food trucks and BBQ food. All kinds of cars were featured in the car show from classics, antique, exotic sports cars, trucks, modified vehicles and of course Mazdas. There was a group of Mazda 3's, some which were 'souped' up and of course Miatas. Gordy Nicholl and Joe Feliz both entered their new RF's in the show. Not sure who won the cash awards and prizes that were given away as we left for a Miata drive before they closed the car show contest. All the proceeds from entrance fees and food went to "Prevent Child Abuse Utah" so it was for a good cause. 1

The event was very well organized and fun to attend. A group of us went down together, Gordy, Dave Encheff, Ali and Shylo, Lynn and I and we had some of our neighbor friends, Sheri and Scott Runyon drive our MazdaSpeed as they have never driven a Miata before and wanted to do that. Karen Christensen showed up for awhile and Joe Feliz was there with his new RF and Steve and Kathy Nielsen came in their Miata. A BBQ truck featured some great ribs and chicken and Suzi's Thai Food Truck was there with some good treats. Most of us had lunch together and then our friends went with Lynn and I on a drive up the Provo Canyon and the Alpine Loop on the way home. It was a real nice day and great weather. Thanks to MJ for putting on such a great event and we look forward to it for next year.



# Candid Camera

by Mike Bailey

We had a good time in June with the Club Luncheon and Drive along Bacchus Highway to Saratoga Springs and on west side of the Utah Lake through Elberta, Goshen Canyon and on to Nephi and then up to Mount Nebo Loop. It took most of the day but was lots of fun. Photos at the luncheon with some June birthday boys getting gifts and others enjoying lunch and then onto our wonderful drive.



# JUST FOR FUN



BUCKLES/ by David Gilbert

**LESTER'S**  
CAR CATCH: VIN#007

**1990 Mazda Miata MX-5**

**Specifications**

Engine Type: 1.6L DOHC 16v 116hp  
Wheelbase: 89.2"  
Track F/R: 55.5/56.2  
Width: 65.9"  
Length: 155.4"  
Weight: 2105 lbs  
Performance:  
0-60 -- 8.82 sec  
1/4 mile -- 16.76@81.8mph

THE MIATA IS REMINISCENT OF THE CLASSIC BRITISH ROADSTERS FROM THE '60s.

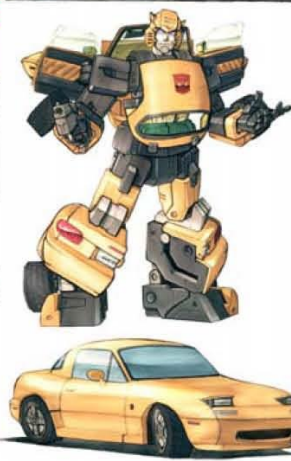
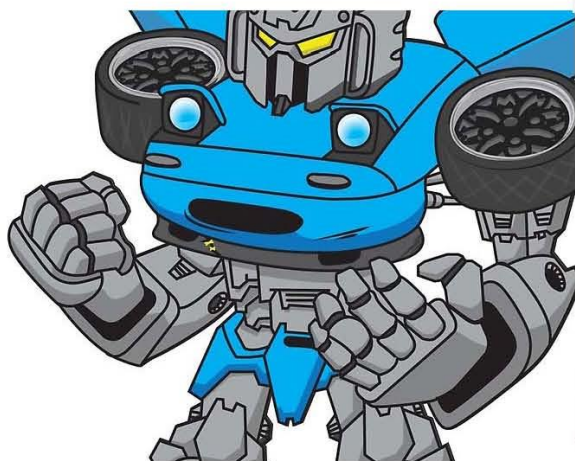
"MIATA" MEANS "REWARD" IN OLD HIGH GERMAN.

IN 1990 THE MIATA WAS ONLY OFFERED IN FOUR COLORS: CRYSTAL WHITE, MARINER BLUE, SILVER STONE METALLIC, AND CLASSIC RED.

THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES THE MIATA AS THE BEST-SELLING SPORTS CAR.

THE MIATA WAS DESIGNED WITH A TRADITIONAL FRONT ENGINE AND A REAR-WHEEL DRIVE LAYOUT.

THE MIATA HAS A 50:50 FRONT/REAR WEIGHT BALANCE.



## 2017 Calendar of Events

*(Submitted and updated by Steve Beckstead)*

- July 1st:** Meeting & Luncheon: Grannie Annies; Kaysville -- Bear Lake Drive
- July 8th to 26th:** (Dates Vary) Viking Grand European River Cruise (Mike and Donn)
- August 3rd:** Tuacahn Weekend in St. George – Susan Vaughn
- August 12th:** 11:30 Meeting and BBQ (Mark and Susan’s Patio) Monthly Meeting (Lou)
- August 20th to 26th:** Miatas at the Total Solar Eclipse of the Sun (Lou Vredeveld)
- September 9th:** Summer Picnic (Morgan Park) Monthly Meeting (Lou Vredeveld)
- October 7th:** 11:30 Meeting and Lunch (TBD-Mike Bailey) - Monthly Meeting (Lou)
- October 28th:** Halloween Party (Details TBA)
- November 4th:** 11:30 Meeting and Lunch (TBD-Mechlings) – Monthly Meeting (Lou)
- December 9th:** Merry Christmas Party (Catered) - Mike and Lynn Bailey