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November 2015

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The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club

We Did the Monster Mash and Other Fall Fun Submitted by Steve Beckstead

Each day takes a little more intestinal fortitude for me to put that top down. The situation is even more dire for my cold sensitive co pilot. Our summer adventures are giving way to fall and winter fun times. One nice thing about this group of Funsters is that we don't have to have hot summer days to have fun together (although it does help).

A good example of this is one of the events done since my last Top down, the interesting evening event hosted by Robert and Sharon to see the Lunar eclipse at Soldier Hollow on September 27th. The dinner beforehand at the club house was delicious and Jim and Margie definitely deserve part of the event thanks for arranging that. It was obvious that the Mechlings went to a lot of work with games, music, and Robert's awesome telescope setup. We all found a dim parking lot and "circled the wagons" Miata style and out came the lawn chairs. It was stellar! Thanks to all who came and our hosts.



Next fun was the lunch on October 3rd hosted by my favorite vice president, Lou Vredevel. His choice of a different restaurant, the Tin Roof Grill, was a nice new place to try. The fun Alpine loop drive followed, always one of my favorites. We did the Cascade Springs walk again, and some new faces joined us this time.



The long awaited Surf 'n Safari road trip zoomed off on October 4th with a bunch of funsters adventuring Southbound! The I-15 drive to Kanab the first day would be the most we would spend on free-ways this trip. Once again our master planning Vice President, Lou, came through in style with outstanding roads to twist through. We did Route 66, including a stop in Oatman where the burros run free, and then Havasu. I did most of

(continued on page 2)

Munster Mash (continues from page 1)

the leading, but some others took a turn, the most memorable being Rick and Dayna's chicane filled segment from San Diego to Las Vegas. If you remember 1963's It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World these were the same roads where Jimmy Durante went "sailing right out there". It's true, Ronda looked it up! Thanks Rick!! Our thanks to Jim for letting us trash his room with a big Utah party. I'm thinking there will be a write-up of this event later in the newsletter, but it was nice to see how the "other half" does an event. Our thanks go to the San Diego Club for inviting us. The event was awesome, but my favorite parts were the drives down and back. Honorable mention for fun has to go to Margie and Lynn for their beach frolicking. These two love the beach more than anybody. We got laughing so hard at one point, there was serious concern some of us might actually drown! I'll be on the lookout for another club's party to crash next year?



The next "no cars" type event recently was the Grand Theater's musical production of Young Frankenstein. I think it was Margie's idea, but huge thanks also go to Hank and Rexanne for arranging and buying tickets for most people. Most joined in at a pre show dinner at The Other Place which was very good. It's easy to split a dinner between two at this home style yummy restaurant. Then down to the theater where Amy and Spencer joined us together with the Hendrixes and Encheffs. I might even be forgetting more folks, but somewhere between 25 and 30 laughers watched the superb and hilarious actors "put the candle back". Great sets and a bargain price, what more can you ask for? Do it again Margie (your reputation of being the "mean one" is hereby dissolved :-)). I hate to burst your bubble, but you are a sweetheart!



Last thing for now was the Halloween bowling party at the All Star Lanes on the 24th. We did not have a huge turnout, but certainly enough to have a good time, around 15. Costuming Ronda went all out again and I LOVED our Oompa Loompa costumes she came up with. We also had the Vredeveld's "Sheet" family led by Lou as Bull Sheet, Carol Lynn as Holy Sheet, Hillary as Chicken Sheet, and James as Dip Sheet

(continued on page 3)



Mike also “slipped” in as a banana. I was really proud of my 124 score until I looked around and saw Larry Deckert’s overhead scoreboard. Does that say “191”? I quietly turned off my overhead screen and put on the cone of shame. He certainly showed us how. How about some lessons, Larry?

Coming up next is November 7th luncheon at Pat’s BBQ put together by Hank and Rexanne once again being the orchestrators. They are also working on an event for after lunch. This is a great place for a meeting and the food is great. Be there!!

Once again I would like to express thanks to so many members of the Club for their support and help with keeping things zooming along. I’m sure you’ll be hearing it from Mike, but big events are coming up. I am now registered for Miatas in Deer Valley and confirmed on the 2017 cruise and travel insurance with Morris Travel. Both went smoothly, so “get ur dun” folks.

Keep your tops up for now, but always be ready if the Sun comes out, that’s my motto (originally heard at Woodstock in 1969)!

Steve Beckstead, Your Smiling President



Hey gang! The November luncheon is THIS SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7th, at Pat's BBQ 155 West Commonwealth Ave (1 block south of 2100 S, 1 block west of West Temple).

Arrive by 11:45 (they open at noon, but will likely let us in a bit early).

We're planning on going as a group to the movie The Intern (Robert DeNiro, Ann Hathaway) afterwards.

We'll let you know the time of the movie.

2015 Calendar of Events

7 November: 11:30 Luncheon Pat’s BBQ Hosted by the Ponds. Movie “The Intern”

5 December: 6:00 Christmas Party at the Bailey’s home

Membership Dues Reminder

To prevent interruption of your club benefits, such as receiving your Newsletter, dues for the year are to be paid by the 1st of the month enrolled. Club benefits will stop 3 months after a membership expires at which time their name will be removed from the roster and they will need to re-apply for membership.

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. We will also have a new method on our website, utahmiataclub.org, to pay your dues 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.treasumc@icloud.com

Recently Expired	Date
John & Toni Bauernhuber	10/31/2015
Tom & Laurel Drysdale	8/31/2015
Kent & Dianna Housley	10/31/2015
Wes Starkenburg	7/31/2015
Robert & Lauren Thompson	10/31/2015
Jules & Julee Weaver	8/31/2015

Expiring 11/30/2015

Leonard & Shauna Millgate

To Be Removed From Roster

Greg Richard



New Members	Year	Color
Duane Harris	2016	Reflex Blue
Jack Bushaw	2016	Ceramic White
Ryan Springer	2016	Soul Red
Greg & Lisa Jerome	2011	Black



Steve Beckstead	2nd
Margie Newson	6th
Jim Vaughn	8th
Doyle Sturm	15th
Kent Peterson	20th
Jim Newson	25th
Janet Anderson	28th
Lynn Maland	28th
Joye Carlson	30th

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Newsletter Editor Found!

Dear Friends,

Well, it looks like we've found a newsletter editor thanks to the efforts of Mike Bailey. I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has supported me as your newsletter editor for these past years, especially Doyle Sturm who passed the torch to me and gave much appreciated assistance in the beginning. I have enjoyed doing the newsletter and will miss all you guys once we move to Oregon.

During my tenure, I have encouraged all of you to feel free to contribute to the newsletter as it is your club, made better by each individual effort. Please continue to support the new editor with all your great articles and suggestions. The more involved each one is, the more it becomes "our club". Keep on Zoomin',

Toni B

VANITY PLATE BY MIKE BAILEY

This month's Vanity Plate is the personalized place for Margie Newson's new MX-5 Grand Touring (GT) ND. Actually this personalized plate is a transfer from her third generation (NC) Copper Red. LIL SLKR or better known (at least to me) is Little Slicker. This is indeed a slick little car but you will have to ask Margie or Jim for more information as to why they have this name for their Miata. We wish the Newson's all the best with their new Miata. It will be fun to see how it handles on their first major out of state trip on the Surf-N-Safari event. I wonder if Margie will miss having a front 'glove box' for incidentals on this trip!



Christmas Party 2015



Just a reminder to mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 5, 2015** for the 10th Annual **UMC Christmas Party at the Bailey home**. You won't want to miss this. It is only 1 short month away (wow, has the year gone by that fast!). It is hard to write about Christmas and cold weather when the temperatures have been so nice.

The party will start about **6:00 pm** and the club will furnish Turkey Breast and Ham as the main course (unless you would rather have Mexican food this year). Members will bring "Pot Luck" items such as salads or side dishes to go along with the main meal. Also you can bring desserts or other Christmassy items to eat. Club will furnish bottled water to drink and members can BYOB, or beverages of choice. **Don't forget your "White Elephant" Gift** (one per each person) for exchange during one of the most fun moments of the year. We are hoping to have some exciting new gifts this year, and I am sure some of the old ones will be recycled. If you have a Miata related video or slide show you want to bring, please do so. Last year we had the Crazy Sweater Contest for Men and Women. Not sure what we will do this year. Be sure to come as it will be a blast as usual and a chance to re-cap the fun year we have had. If anyone has ideas for Games or suggestions on how to make this party more fun, please let us know. This will be the party NOT to miss!



Member Spotlight

By Carol Lynn Vredeveld

Eddie Egan is a familiar face to many of us and has been a member on and off for many years. In past years he has designed some very unique t-shirts that he made available to the club. I was lucky enough to win one at a luncheon a while back. He has recently been to several luncheons and drives and we are happy to welcome him back to the club!

He owns a 2000 MIATA LS (Mighty Mia) and because he drives her daily...he has managed to put 196,000 miles on Mia. He doesn't currently have personalized plates, but said he is seriously thinking about it.

Before purchasing his Miata he was always a GM guy. His previous car was a 1972 Pontiac Firebird which he owned for ten years. He had researched the Miata for about two months before he purchased one and knew he wanted an LS, because of the tan interior. Mia was the second Miata he looked at; he test drove her and fell in love! Mia was prepped and readied and he drove her home ...Zoom...Zoom.

He found the Utah Miata Club when someone from the club put a nice car card on his window while he was living in Sandy. Eddie said he has been a member over the past 8 years now and again, but he is ready to get back in the club and looking forward to some great drives.

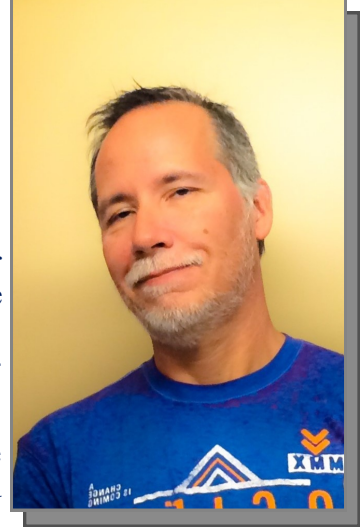
He is originally from Kansas City MO, but grew up mostly in Oceanside CA after moving there in 1969. He attended Irvine High School where he developed his artistic skills and pursued a career as a Graphic Artist. He and his family moved to Utah in 2005 during the housing boom. He and his family were looking to make a change, so they remodeled a house in CA, sold it for a nice profit and moved to Utah as his mother and sister had done a few years earlier. He now lives in Sandy.

He has two great kids, Ryan 26 and Holly Ann 23. His son Ryan is very artistic, has a love for cars and loves to work on them with his Dad. His daughter Holly Ann inherited her Dad's artistic ability as well and really enjoys caricature drawing. Both his kids are graphic artists. His son now lives in Las Vegas and his daughter is in Oregon. Eddie is currently a single guy and is looking forward to new adventures.

Eddie has been a graphic artist for almost 20 years. He worked as a graphic artist for a company called Vanguard in Carlsbad California which was a military accessory company for 10 years. They did all their printing from pins, t-shirts and uniforms to billboards. He said anything that could be printed on, they would do. It was very fast paced and he said he really enjoyed it!

He now works as a transportation coordinator for a medical transport company based in New York City. He schedules the medical transportation for seniors that need to go to the doctor, dentist, chemotherapy, dialysis appointments etc. with over 300 ambulant companies.

Eddie said he enjoys all of the Miata Club events, but his favorites were the ones held in Moab. His son Ryan was with him on two of these trips so some of the club members got to meet him. They both loved all the cars in town, the drives, the amazing hikes, the shops and great restaurants as well as hanging out downtown at night in this beautiful city.



(continues on page 9)

Member Spotlight (continued from page 8)



Eddie has always been into cars just as his Dad was. He said his Dad enjoyed the classics, like the Impalas and the Cutlasses, but he never worked on them. Eddie said he took his love for cars a step further and actually works on his cars. His son Ryan has now surpassed him and “really” works on his cars! I’d say...it runs in the family.

Besides working on and driving his Miata, Eddie is also a traditional artist, plays guitar as well as drums and enjoys hiking in beautiful places like Moab and especially spending time with his kids. Eddie and Ryan together designed Miata shirts that they made and sold in the club.

Also, just to let you in on a little secret, Eddie said many of the club members have wondered about the set up on his Miata, This is his explanation: “I just have to say I will never tell, but honestly I have V-max coil overs almost sitting at its highest point, zero offset 16” x 8 wheels, rolled fenders, cold air induction with a resonator instead of a muffler.”

I’m sure that makes sense to those of you that were wondering!!

We’re glad to have you back Eddie...since you love driving Mighty Mia...maybe we can talk you into planning or leading a drive or two in the near future!



Revised Logo on Club Magnets by Mike Bailey



We have improved on the logo design of the Miata on our Mountains Logo for our Club Magnets. The previous image was a poor resolution copy of the Miata and turned out a little 'fuzzy' when printed. We also had versions of the second generation Miata that were not the best of art work. A few years back when the third generation Miata came out, we improved the illustration image by using a grey car and colorizing it when printed on the magnets. That image was still not the best. It has taken 18 years to perfect this logo. Previously to the year 1997 our club used the "Miata Club of America" logo with the words "Utah Chapter" under it. Some of you long-timers may remember this logo. I still have this logo on a sticker on the Windscreen on my 2002 Miata.

Now we have gone a step further and re-drawn the logo and it is a "vector" file for premium quality. The new logo design is very crisp and clear as you will see on the new illustration. We can also change the color (same as previously) on the Miata to represent the color of your Miata (within certain limits). We will use this design in the future for Club Magnets with the Mountains design. The cost of the Club Magnets, whether the Official logo or Mountains logo is still \$25.00 per set or pair of two. Size of the Magnets is the same as previously at 6 - 6.5" round. If you need a set to put on your car for drives and events please contact me. Next year, we will review the option of putting an "ND" fourth generation Miata on club magnets and apparel.



Miatas at Deer Valley, 2016

June 22-25, 2016

by Mike Bailey

Register Now!

Over 1060 hits on Miata.Net Forum on our event



The Registration process for Miatas in Deer Valley is underway! You can go to our new website and click on the Miata's in Utah page and download the registration form, print it out. **FILL out your Registration Form today**, and mail it in with a check for the fee. You can find the Registration Form on our club website and all event details by clicking the Event Logo.

The **Registration is \$125.00 per person. Register before December 31, 2015 as the Registration Fee goes up to \$145.00 per person on January 1, 2016.** We need to pay a substantial deposit for the facilities on January 9th of which funds for this will come from the event registrations.

The Registration fee includes the cost of the fabulous food we will have for the **Welcome Social on Thursday night** and also the **Gourmet Banquet Dinner for our Saturday night Program and Closing Ceremonies**. This will feature a fabulous dinner prepared by award winning chefs at The Chateaux. It is an \$80 dinner value per person so you won't want to miss it and you will get your money's worth. Event fee also includes an Event Pin, Goodie Bag full of surprises, Ticket for Give-Away Drawings, all the printed handouts, etc. In addition our event costs and expenses are paid by registration fees. **After you Register, Book your Room at the host hotel, The Chateaux - Deer Valley** or alternate property, **The Lodges at Deer Valley**. There is a link on the website to do this. Just follow the prompts. Your credit card will hold your room. You do NOT have to pay any money now for your room. *Review details on rooms and cancellation policies.

♦ **SCENIC DRIVES * GOODIE BAGS * EVENT PIN * GROUP PHOTO SHOOT * WELCOME SOCIAL * SHOW & SHINE CAR SHOW * BANQUET & PROGRAM * MIATA PRIZE GIVE-A-WAYS * FABULOUS FOOD * SHOPPING AT HISTORIC PARK CITY * EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMMODATIONS ***

♦ **Don't miss out on the Great Miata Mountain Getaway next year at Deer Valley!**

♦ **Register NOW and Book your Room NOW for best selection.**



VIKING RIVER CRUISE NOVEMBER UPDATE

BY MIKE BAILEY

Over 500 Hits on Miata.net Forum



We have "Great News!" We now have our **Sailing Date which is July 9-23, 2017. Our ship is called the Viking Eistla.** It is a brand new Longship built in 2014. Other good news is that the cruise rates have come in less than originally expected and the **new cruise prices are anywhere from 4% to 8% less, or cheaper, than the 2015-2016 published rates PLUS all prices INCLUDE \$225.00 per person Gratuities.** This new price will save everyone money on this cruise at least \$500.00 per person, depending on cabin! Morris Murdock Travel has chartered the entire ship from Viking so this cruise vacation belongs to us. As mentioned, we have 50% of the total cabin staterooms reserved. If you have family or friends or other Miata people you know of who would like to join us, please let them know about this cruise offer and these prices will be provided to them as well. Morris Murdock Travel is allowing our group several more months to book this ship with our people before putting out the word and advertising to their traveling clients.

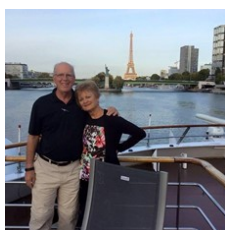
We also now have the official "Terms and Conditions" of our cruise finalized by Morris Murdock Travel. Amber Lee Johanson, our travel agent, will be calling each of you to confirm your commitment and participation on the cruise. Everyone who has made a deposit will be contacted immediately. *She will confirm the deposit you paid on your cabin stateroom and ask for your commitment.* Once this happens your deposit will be non-refundable. Amber Lee's direct phone line is 801-483-6314. Email: ajohanson@morrismurdock.com. From this date forward you may pay by credit card for the rest of your cruise payments without occurring an additional credit card fee. A payment schedule will be given to you which is as follows:

Our Second Payment of \$1,000.00 per person is due July 9, 2016. This is also non-refundable at this time. **Your Final Payment is due March 9, 2017 (4 months before departure)** also non-refundable. **Amber Lee will advise you to get Travel Insurance which is a good idea to protect your investment in the cruise.** She will provide you with the details of the Travel Insurance at this time, which is based on your specific cost amount of the cruise and your age. Please ask her any questions concerning this at this time. Travel insurance can be increased at time of booking Pre and Post Hotel packages and at time of air fare purchase to cover these additional costs. (Air fare will be booked approximately 10-11 months before the cruise).

New Web Site Page: Morris Murdock Travel has created a new web page on their website for **OUR Cruise.** It will be made live within the next couple weeks. It will have all kinds of useful information for each of you about our cruise and all the details you need to know. We will send you an email when it is ready to view. There will be short video clips of the ship, cabin rooms, cruise itinerary, places we will visit and see, and many things you will experience on our cruise. Meanwhile we would like you to view our **Facebook Page** for our cruise; named **Utah Miata Club Viking River Cruise.** It is a closed group so if you have not joined yet, email Donn Cichocki for permission to join and he will email you back. donncichocki@comcast.net.

50% of the cabins for the LongShip are reserved! We now have Miata people from 15 other Miata Clubs from 15 different states represented. Put the word out to other Miata people and friends for "the trip of a lifetime!". Over 500 Hits on [Miata.net Forum](#)

Note: Bill and Janet Anderson just got back from a VRC to France and loved it!



October Luncheon Report by Mike Bailey

Our luncheon for October was at Tin Roof in Sandy, a new place for us to eat as a club. The food was good and they were very efficient at feeding us all at the same time. We had a great turnout of members as we have most of the year with record turnout of members. After lunch we headed up to one of our favorite places, once again over the Alpine Loop and to Cascade Springs. It was kind of a cloudy day and looked like rain so we had the tops up. We were there the month before but not many of the Fall leaves had turned orange and red. This time there was a remarkable difference in the foliage up the canyon. We hiked up the springs to the falls and took lots of nice photos. Winter is on the way, but it was a very nice Fall day with pleasant temperatures. Enjoy the photos of our drive.



MIATA OF THE MONTH BY MIKE BAILEY



Miata of the month is Bill and Janet Anderson's (our Pennsylvania members) new Jet Black Mica GT (Grand Touring) ND with tan interior and automatic tranny that they special ordered or had their dealer find it for them. The dealer got it in on Thursday, Oct. 22nd, and they picked it up the following Saturday morning. Read the short story from Bill's own words about what happened to them.

"Well we have good news and bad news. First the good news, Faulkner Motors was able to locate a Jet Black Mica GT Automatic with Tan interior (our preferred configuration) and had it delivered to their dealership on Thursday. We picked up the car this morning. It's a looker for sure.

Now the bad news. While driving down I-83 I was passing a semi and it blew a tire, sending tread flying in front of me. I tried to avoid it but hit a large piece. I now have a new Miata with most of the lower left front body work missing. So with less than 100 miles on the car it's off to the body shop where they can hopefully repair the damage. It's not a good day - maybe Penn State will beat Maryland so that we can ease our pain a bit."



Halloween Bowling Party by Mike Bailey

We had our Halloween party this year at the All Star Bowling Lanes in Draper. It was a very nice facility and we had the bar and lounge area all to ourselves on Saturday afternoon, October 24th. At least half our group dressed up in costumes and the ones that didn't were scary enough!

I won't mention any names but here are some photos. I think the hit of the party was Vredeveld's with their "Sheet" costumes. There was Bull Sheet Holy Sheet, Dip Sheet, and Chicken Sheet. Next there was the Becksteads who were the Oompa Loompa couple. Ronda hand made the costumes and they had bright blue-green hair and great face make-up. Ronda always does such a great job each Halloween on costumes. Your's truly was just a big yellow Banana so everyone started calling me "Chiquita". Try driving top down in this costume in a yellow Miata, to boot, with the costume filling up with air. I had to pull over and take it off to my waist or I was going to get blown out of the car! Needless to say it was also pretty hard to bowl in this costume.



We had a pizza and beer lunch (and soft drinks) and some had nachos. There were lots of foods to choose from. We had a great time.

Larry Deckert, our club's best bowler got a 191, which I think was the highest score and I think he also had the highest total score of all games with a 325. Kathy Nielsen beat me on the first game on our lane, 119 to 115. Her high game was 134 which was a really good score. Shylo Bazzaz also bowled pretty good and had the best 'dancing and moves' on an ally lane (in my opinion). It was a great time and thanks to the Beckstead's for arranging this party for the club.



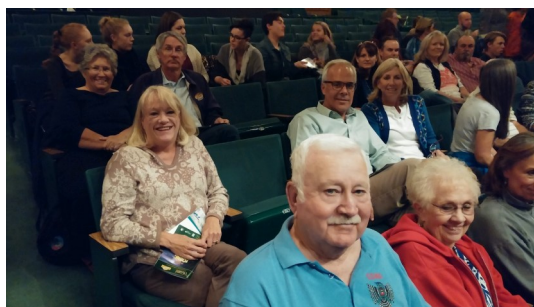
Candid Camera

We have a few photos from last month's October events as follows: Susan Vaughn won \$500.00 Cash at the Virgin River Casino in Mesquite, NV. on our way home from the Surf-N-Safari trip. We stopped to have lunch at the last place available with a casino and on her very last Keno card, she won the jackpot. Congratulations Susan!

At Surf-n-Safari we had a late night party in one of the hotel rooms. It was a night most of us wore our Thompson Automotive Hawaiian Miata Shirts. It was a fun night of frivolity and Steve got a face full of whipped cream from Susan Vaughn. Sorry the photo is blurry, but it is an "action" shot.



October 22nd about 28 or so club members went to "Young Frankenstein" play at the Grand Theatre and had a fun night with a pre-play dinner at "The Other Place" restaurant downtown SLC. It was very funny and a nice night out on the town with Miata People.



Panguitch Playground Report

By Mike Bailey

One of the stops we made on our way to San Diego for Surf-n-Safari was in Panguitch, Utah. We wanted to take a break and actually see in real life the playground equipment that we did a fund raiser for at last year's Miatas in Bryce. We were able to provide Panguitch City some money, to the tune of several thousand dollars, to help build the playground. The playground was very nice and we spent about 20 minutes or so playing on the equipment; going down the slides and climbing the bars and swinging on the swing sets. It made us feel good that we were able to contribute to such a worthy project as this. As you can see a bunch of us playing around here and having some fun. I hope we are able to do something like this for our Deer Valley event this next summer.



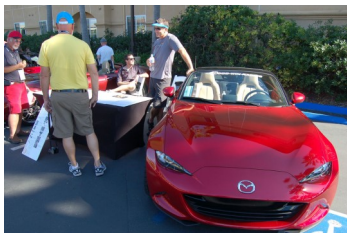
MX-5 ND Miata Sightings

By Mike Bailey

October has been the month that I saw more 4th Generation ND Miatas than ever. It seems like they are popping up all over. I had the pleasure of taking one for a good drive this past weekend for about an hour or so. It was a Ceramic White Sport Edition. This color looks like the color of cement to me, but it is striking and looks different in the sun than in the shade. It is a "Metallic" color, so it sparkles. This edition is the lowest priced new MX-5 Miata. The Sport only comes in black cloth seats and has the least amount of goodies as far as options go, BUT it is also the lowest priced new Miata starting at \$25,000. and some change up to about \$28K. I was driving on Main Street in Murray by D. Dahle Mazda when I spotted this Miata out of the corner of my eye. I quickly made a U-Turn and stopped in. It was a 6 speed so I wanted to take it for a spin. It was really fast. Quick in all ways. It was lots of fun. They are getting in a Club Model in a week or so in a different color.



I also saw lots of the new ND's in California. Seems like they are much more plentiful in sunny Cal. There were quite a few at Surf-n-Safari. Here are some featured here. Brian Goodwin of Goodwin Racing displayed his at S-N-S as well as Christine Knight with Moss Motors in her Artic White. Also is the MX-5 voted Best of Show ND, a red launch edition. I also test drove a new Reflex Blue Mica at the event. There were lots of Launch editions with the tan interior there like Margie and Jim's.



October Drive Report by Mike Bailey

Our luncheon for October was at Tin Roof in Sandy, a new place for us to eat as a club. The food was good and they were very efficient at feeding us all at the same time. We had a great turnout of members as we have most of the year with record turnout of members.

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Surf-N-Safari

Report by Mike Bailey



Surf-N-Safari sponsored by the San Diego Miata Club was a lot of fun for our club group. We had twenty-something come from Utah and several of our out-of-state members, namely Gary and Kathy Collings from Indiana, Dave and Ana Porter from Arizona, Cyndee Boyvee and Al Brown from Florida.

We went mostly the back roads from Panguitch on for rest of the trip. Stopped in Panguitch for a break and to see the Kids Playground in the park we helped finance (see related article in this newsletter). Had a great lunch at Forsher's German Bakery Café in Orderville. Then to Kanab and visited the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Angle Canyon in Southern Utah. In Kanab I pulled out of the parking lot on a very rainy early morning and sheared off my Track Dog Air Splitter from the front end of the yellow Miata which protects my front air dam. I knew that was going to happen when I heard the scraping sounds and then looked in my rear view mirror to see Robert Mechling holding it up and hunching his shoulders. Funny thing I already knew about that parking lot dip as I have experienced it many times before at the same motel. I couldn't find a FedEx or UPS store in town to ship it back so had it in my front seat all the way there and back home as my traveling companion. Not as cute as Alienana was, but 'oh well'.

We had a great time going down to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and to Oatman when we stopped and walked down the town's old boardwalk streets and saw lots of donkey's who acted like they owned the place. Then we went through the desert back roads to Laughlin, Bull Head City and then down to Lake Havasu City to see the London Bridge. We had many days of off and on rain, but it was 'all good'. Then to Indio, CA and through Joshua Tree National Forest to our destination of Carlsbad, CA.

While the group headed up to Lake Elsinore I took a detour down the Freeway and headed to the Hilton Garden Inn to drop off my luggage so I could go pick up Lynn from the S.D. Airport, some 45 miles south. We all dressed that day in our green event T-Shirts made for the event, and funny enough all the event staff committee had their green shirts on as well. Ours were not as bright green (thank goodness) or we would have been mistaken for the staff. Thursday night we did the "City Lights" tour which was quite the experience. Ask any who participated in that.

Next day on Friday we had the choice of doing several great drives. Lynn and I did the Palomar Observatory drive called "Run to the Stars" to the Hale Observatory as a destination, which had tons of curves and great mountain roads on Couser Canyon Road. The leader was excellent and we could go as fast as we wanted and there was not much traffic so this was a good thing with all the curves. It was lots of fun. Others had the same experiences on their drives.

Friday night was a great dinner outside on the patio. I got a chance to speak about our Deer Valley event and the VRC but was a little unprepared as I thought I was going to do that on Saturday night. I gave out lots of flyers on both events and some VRC DVD's on the cruise. Many of us wore our Thompson Hawaiian Miata shirts that night and we all looked good. After dinner we partied in a room and had pies that several had purchased at a great pie shop on their particular drive, which I believe was to Historic Julian a Gold Rush Mining town. This was a lot of fun as we had about 20 people in the room.



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Surf-N-Safari (continued from page 18)



Saturday some went on the planned rally to pick up clues, but most of us enjoyed a day at the beach with rented chairs and umbrellas. The ocean water was a warm 72 degrees and it was lots of fun. A big wave came crashing in and caught most by surprise and knocked everyone over. Lynn and I then went to a fish restaurant in Carlsbad overlooking the ocean and had a nice lunch.

Saturday night was the dinner and program and they had a 60's style band playing some good old hits and keeping with the theme of the event. They gave out prizes from a raffle drawing. Several of our group won several prizes. Karen Christensen's name was drawn for the grand prize of \$300.00, (equal to their registration fee) but they mis-read the number and took back the money and gift, which was sort of 'hokey' we thought. We felt bad for Karen and Dalin on this. They should have just given it to them as our feelings after the fact. All in all we had a great time and it was a fun event and it was great to see all the friends we have seen in past years at our events. We also made new friends as well.



The car show was kind of different as it was voted on by a special committee instead of participants for Best NA, NB, NC, ND and Best of Show and Best OTM which was won by a convertible Mustang. Best NA was a '97 Marina Green and Best of Show was also an NA, white in immaculate condition from California. Best NB was yours truly. It was announced that they picked me for having the most Magnetics on a Miata, but it also stood out among the many other Blazing Yellow's at the event. Best NC was a True Red Miata owned by Rolly Grimm from the Okanagan Valley Miata Club from Canada, who incidentally had quite a showing of members at S-N-S. Best ND was Steve Pate's Soul Red Launch edition. His Miata had some great looking and sounding after market mufflers/tail pipes on it. I got a hand painted ceramic tile plaque with the event logo painted on it. You can see it in my Miata memorabilia collection at the Christmas party. You will be jealous you didn't get one!





Ana Porter's Recipe Box



Nannies Buttermilk Pie

1 3/4 C. sugar
 1 stick unsalted butter (1/2 C.) room temp.
 3 large eggs
 1/4 tsp. vanilla extract
 pinch of salt
 3 T. all purpose flour
 1 C. buttermilk
 1 9" pie shell, unbaked

Beat the butter and sugar, add eggs and the rest of ingredients

Bake 30 m. or until done .Oven 345

Creamy Vinaigrette

1/2 cup olive oil
 1 tbs red wine vinegar
 1/2 teasp Dijon Mustard
 1/4 teasp honey
 1 teasp salt
 1/4 teasp black pepper
 1 tbs minced shallot
 4 ounces mix lettuces

In a small bowl mix all the ingredients

Then add to the lettuce and mix well and gently.

Serve and enjoy it.

