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**PRESIDENT:**  
STEVE BECKSTEAD

**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
LOU VREDEVELD

**SECRETARY:**  
JIM NEWSON

**TREASURER:**  
MARGIE NEWSON



**JANUARY 2016**

## THE CONVERTABLE CHRONICLES OF THE UTAH MIATA CLUB

### "WE WISH YOU A MIATA CHRISTMAS"

SUBMITTED BY STEVE BECKSTEAD



Well winter is now officially here and even the heartiest of convertible addicts have thrown in the towel. Yep, I am talking about myself. Oh don't get me wrong, I still drive my white zoomster, just with snow tires all around and the hardtop securely locked down. Hey it's still fun, you know I'm right. Ronda and I are having a very busy month and I'm thinking most of you are emulating us in your own Decembers.

As much as I hate the cold of December, it brings one of my favorite events of the whole year, Miata related or not. Thanks to our gracious hosts, Mike and Lynn Bailey, we once again invaded their domicile for some Yule tide eats and the highly anticipated white elephant gift battle, I mean white elephant gift exchange! I'm thinking Mike will have a pictured synopsis for the newsletter, but we all had a great time and I want to personally thank him.

Many of the zooming members got together for a Christmas piano recital at the Sandy City Hall on the 11th, a place we have frequented many times before. A quick bite at the Chick Fil A before hit the spot and down the road a couple of blocks to another very enjoyable musical evening. Thanks to Lou for this idea.

Another wintertime event was suggested by Susan Vaughn and despite Mother Nature's attempt to snow out our fun, everyone had a great time. I felt proud as I stubbornly put my top down in a snow-storm two different times as we drove the mile long Christmas light display with synchronized music all the way through. It made it more colorful, but too wet for us, so up it went.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

### Miata Christmas (Continued From Page 1)

Then I looked back and saw Robert and Sharon slowly gliding through the luminous displays top down right at the start. Looked back a couple of minutes later, it was still down, snow having a field day with their interior. Later on, once again, my perusal revealed, it was STILL DOWN. Was it broken or are they both crazy? Well, I'll just say, no, it was not broken and leave it at that. Troopers!

Right after the New Year Day rolls past, we'll have our first 2016 meeting and lunch at the Bohemian Brewery and Grill. Please everyone be there on January 2nd.

The last agenda item, the election and planning meeting is a very important event to have your voice heard about what you want the club to be doing in 2016. Check in the newsletter for details. We have simplified it this year. That's me, the more trouble free, the better.

Finally, as I leave this office, I'm sending my thanks to so many members of the Club for their support and help this year. There is no way any single person could do this successfully without the involvement of so many. This has not been an entirely smooth year for me off the Miata field. I hope I have lived up to your expectations when you voted in a picture of me last January. ☺

I also want to say I know my sense of humor can be unconventional, and I believe I am funny and entertaining some of the time. This comes at a price as I have unintentionally offended people in my past when my sense of humor has been too far "out there". If this has happened to anyone this year, please forgive me as I would never do this on purpose. OK, this is where I ride off into the sunset, or maybe drive off towards it, so best wishes to all my friends for a fabulous 2016!

**Steve Beckstead, your 2015 president**



### **"AND THE SURVEY SAID:"**

SUBMITTED BY STEVE BECKSTEAD

This is a follow up to the survey questionnaire I sent out recently. I want to thank the many of you who have completed and returned it. As of now I have 35 surveys. It has been interesting and I want to finish up with it soon, so if you have not submitted it and wish to, please do so soon. I will bring some blank forms to the next lunch if you have not submitted and wish to at that time. I will tabulate the results and share with the directors to see if any ideas might make us a better club. I will also write a submission for the February newsletter for the membership share the opinions received. THANKS!

# 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](http://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](mailto:sec.treasumc@icloud.com)

| RECENTLY EXPIRED  |          | EXPIRING 1/31/2016  |  |
|---|----------|---|--|
| TOM & LAUREL DRYSDALE<br>JOHN & TONI BAUERNHUBER  | 10/31/15 | ERIC & PAT ACHTER<br>GARY & KATHY COLLINGS<br>DOYLE & VALERIE FRANCIS STURM<br>ERIC & KATHY KANKAINEN<br>SCOTTY MEDINE<br>GORDY & JACKIE NICHOLL<br>JIM & PAT VAUGHN<br>MARK & SUSAN VAUGHN |  |
| DAVE & BRENDA ENCHEFF<br>MICHAEL J. FOX<br>JOE & JOANN LEVERICH<br>LYNN & ALEXA MALAND<br>G.STEVEN & LISA SULLIVAN<br>JAMES & HILLARY VREDEVELD | 12/31/15 |   |  |

TO BE REMOVED FROM ROSTER : JULES & JULEE WEAVER

## NEW MEMBERS

|                          |      |                    |
|--------------------------|------|--------------------|
| KEN DODGE                | 2016 | RED SPORT          |
| CHRISTY & AINSLEY HEADEY | 1997 | MARINA GREEN M ED. |

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

PAUL KLOER 12TH



CHIP BERLIK 27TH

ALEXA MALAND 29TH



CANDY HENDRIX 30TH

JACKIE NICHOLL 30TH



## UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

BY MIKE BAILEY

JAN 2ND

JANUARY LUNCHEON

JANUARY 23, 2016

ELECTIONS/PLANNING MEETING



**BOUNTIFUL MAZDA**

2815 S. MAIN ST  
BOUNTIFUL, UT 84010  
888-691-7332



**OREM MAZDA**

55 E. UNIVERSITY PKWY  
OREM, UT 84058  
866-933-7321





# JANUARY 2016 LUNCHEON & MEETING

BY MIKE BAILEY

**Where: Bohemian Brewery & Grill**  
**Address: 94 East Ft. Union Blvd. (7200 S.)**  
**Midvale, Utah 84047**  
**Phone: 801-566-5474**

January luncheon and meeting will be at the Bohemian Brewery & Grill located in Midvale. We will meet in the dining room upstairs at 11:30. If coming by I-15 freeway get off at 7200 So. exit and go east just a block east of State Street on south side. We will be ordering off the menu. It is a diverse menu featuring German Bavarian and Czech food such as Bratwurst, Schnitzel and other delicious foods prepared fresh daily. They also offer breakfast items or lunch items, appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, burgers, wood-fired pizza and other pub fare style food. They also have many delicious desserts. Their microbrewery features specialty Czech Republic and Bavarian Beers.

We will have our meeting during lunch and discuss upcoming activities and events. Weather permitting and if it is a nice day we will probably have a short Miata drive somewhere around the valley if weather is good enough to drive our Miatas. Hope to see you all there.



## ELECTIONS & PLANNING MEETING

BY MIKE BAILEY

Where: Bountiful Mazda; Upstairs Conference Room  
Date & Time: Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner Menu: Pizza and Salad provided by club

Our annual Election and Planning Meeting will be on Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at our usual place in the Conference Room (upstairs) at Bountiful Mazda. We are making the menu really easy this year and voted on this at the Christmas party. Our Dinner menu will be Pizza and Salad and Cookies for dessert with bottled water provided by the Club. The club will take care of all the food this year so no pot luck menu items will be necessary as reported last month.



We will conduct our annual Elections Meeting first and elect "New" Club Officers & Directors for the 2016 year. Please let any current officer know by the January luncheon if you are interested in running for any one of the open positions which will be President, Vice President and two Director's positions. Also let us know if you would like to nominate anyone for one of these positions, but let them know of this in advance as a courtesy so they may accept or decline the invitation. After election of Officers, we will appoint and ratify the other appointed positions available for club members. Remember this is your club so please join the team of great leaders that we have had in the past and run for an office.

After the elections we will have the 2016 Planning Meeting. This is where we discuss the major activities and drives for the year and do a basic outline in planning them. Be sure to bring a Calendar with you if you have one. We like to have a different club member be in charge each month of the year for planning the luncheon place or type of luncheon we will have as well as plan a drive or activity. You can plan this with two or three couple friends if you like, so not one couple has all the responsibility. Put on your thinking caps and let's plan some new activities or drives this year and try something different. It is good to get new ideas from new club members on what you want to do. The success of this club depends on new ideas from all the people in the club. Hope to see everyone at this event. It will be a great way to start off the new year!





# Miatas at Deer Valley, 2016

## January Update

### June 22-25, 2016

by Mike Bailey



**Register NOW for Miatas in Deer Valley if you have not done so yet!**

**Registration Fee is \$145.00 per person.**

We have over 100 people signed up and registered. The Registration form is on our club website which you can download the pdf, print, fill out and mail with your registration fee to our club secretary and treasurer, Jim and Margie Newson. The address is on the form. Or you can send in your event fee by payment on-line. Go to [www.utahmiataclub.org](http://www.utahmiataclub.org) for all the details.

**"Over 1440 hits on Miata.Net Forum on our event"**

\* 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.**



## "CHRISTMAS IN COLOR" HOLIDAY LIGHTS DISPLAY

BY MIKE BAILEY

We had a great evening out the second week of December by meeting at The Spaghetti Factory in Taylorsville for dinner, visiting with our Miata friends, and then going out to the Kearns Olympic Oval to see a fabulous Christmas Light display called "Christmas in Color". The light display was created by the same people that do the annual Midway Ice Castles. It was a mile-long electric light show and had animated Christmas and Holiday displays with holiday-themed music. There were 35 foot high Christmas trees and lots of things to see. We drove thru LED light tunnels as well. It took us about 20 minutes to drive through the display. As we arrived out there it started to snow and was coming down pretty good. Most of us were in our Miatas while Newsons and Dysons drove there OTM (a Mazda of course). The Mechlings braved the storm while we were driving through the light display and went



'top down'.

After, we headed over to Fashion Place Mall in West Valley City and saw some more lights as well as some Reindeer on display. The reindeer was very friendly and I thought he was going to eat a hole in my Miata jacket sleeve while we were trying to take photos of him. We had a great evening and it was lots of fun. A big thanks goes out to Mark and Susan Vaughn for planning and organizing this fun event.





# MIATA OF THE MONTH / VANITY PLATE

BY MIKE BAILEY



Miata of the Month is Mark and Susan Vaughn's new (to them) **1997 "M" Edition Marina Green** with tan interior. This was the special edition Miata for 1997. If you didn't know this bit of trivia, the "M" edition was the special edition on first generation (NA) Miatas. It was always the 'top of the line' with all the bells and whistles on it. Also the M Edition was a special, distinct color and usually featured a different color (other than black) interior. This Miata is in immaculate condition and was well kept by former UMC member Wes Starkenburg. Wes has been a member for 7 years and his health is failing because of Parkinson's Disease. We last saw Wes and his sister Myra, at our Soldier Hollow event last fall for the Eclipse that Mechlings had planned. Wes decided to sell his Miata so Mark made him an offer and got a pretty good deal on it. Mark is especially fond of his Miatas and keeps them very clean and detailed, inside and out. Their other Miata is a 3rd Generation Stormy Blue Miata.

Their new personalized Vanity Plate says **CUSCRZN**. We hope to see them cruzin' a lot this coming year in their new Miata. Their daughter Christy and granddaughter Ainsley Headey are also new members of the club and I am sure Christy will be driving Ainsley to future events. Seems like lots of family members join our club as we have several in our group. Congratulations to the Vaughn's on their new purchase.





# VIKING RIVER CRUISE JANUARY 2016 UPDATE

BY MIKE BAILEY

**VIKING RIVER CRUISE**  
**GRAND**  
**EUROPEAN**  
**TOUR**



Join us for a 15 Day Grand European River Tour:  
Sailing Date is July 9-23, 2017  
Our ship is called the Viking Eistla

Details on the cruise on our UMC Website: [www.utahmiataclub.org](http://www.utahmiataclub.org) Click Viking Logo Ship for Details.

Register NOW. 54 Cabins are now booked and confirmed. Only 41 cabins left. Cruise has been discounted over \$500.00 per person and also includes \$225.00 per person Gratuities. This is 4%-8% off Regular Viking Rates.

## New Morris Mudock 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. 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. Also keep tuned in on our Facebook Page for our cruise updates named Utah Miata Club Viking River Cruise.

Put the word out to family, friends, and other Miata people for "the Trip of a Lifetime!"



Over 779 Hits on Miata.net Forum



## ANNIVERSARY PINS

BY MIKE BAILEY

The Member Anniversary Pin has been put into production and will be available sometime in January 2016 to pass out to members. Hopefully for the Election & Planning Meeting. Pins will be created for 3, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25th anniversary of when a member joined the club. The pin will be presented to the member during the respective luncheon meeting during their respective anniversary month date that we have on record. We will use Bronze or Copper, Silver, and Gold metal for different years to distinguish the pins from each other. We feel this will be a great way to honor each member for their service in the club.



## 25TH ANNIVERSARY FOR UMC

BY MIKE BAILEY

2016 will be the 25th Anniversary date for the Utah Miata Club. Can you believe that the club has been around for 25 consecutive years! What an accomplishment for this club. Of course, I can see why because of all the great wonderful members and fun that we have. To commemorate this event we will produce a decal or car window sticker for your Miata. Attached is a design I have come up with. I hope you like it. If not, feel free to submit another design for the logo or decal.

### 25th Anniversary



This design is actually not a new one. When we came up with the current club logo in 1997 of the round circle with the red 'Miata' script, this design was the alternate one that was submitted at that time. I actually put this on a couple hats and a leather jacket that I still have (and it still fits me too!). Some of the older members (not by age, but by time in the club) may remember this design such as Porters, Bowers, Kloers, Moons, Spence Wood, Annette Nielsen and Steve Tobiason to name a few. I was thinking of what to do, discussing it with Lynn, and thought it would be good to resurrect this idea. Of course it has the first gen NA Miata on it to go back to our roots. The decal can go on the wing window or front windshield corner like the other anniversary decals we have done for each 5 years of the club. This will also be a fitting tribute to the club.

I was speaking with Steve Beckstead about this and we talked about printing up some classic blue denim shirts and/or polos with the logo design on it sometime this spring or before summer. It would be nice to wear these shirts at some of our regional Miata events to show other Miataites how long our club has been around. We will also be planning a celebration or activity for the club to commemorate this event sometime this year, so will want to put it on the planning calendar. Let's come up with some ideas for this.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY REPORT

### BY MIKE BAILEY

This was the 10th Annual Christmas Holiday Party at the Bailey's home. It seems to get better every year. We always have such a good and fun time together. I go to several holiday parties this time of the year and this is by far the best one. The dinner is always fabulous with lots of good holiday food and treats brought by everyone. The club furnished Turkey breasts and a Spiral Ham. Members brought pot luck items. There was tons of food and plenty of delicious desserts. After dinner Steve made some announcements and we had Brent Jenson of Morris Murdock Travel speak to us about our 2017 Viking River Cruise.



It was fun to have Brent and his wife Nikki there. Another good turnout of around 50 people attended. Doyle put together a slideshow of our year's events on a jump drive but we couldn't get it to work on my TV. I figured it out after the party so sorry about that as he had some good photos of our 2015 events. We will view it at another time. We had to settle for viewing events from previous years events.

Steve made some announcements on January agenda items and then we had our Christmas Sock Contest. Many members had some great Christmas Socks to show everyone. Lots of contestants participated. The prize for best Ladies Socks went to Sharon Mechling with her lighted socks. David Encheff won the award for Best Men's Socks, but I think it was partly because he showed his good looking tanned legs which gave him the edge over the rest of us! The party went on for several hours while we enjoyed ourselves visiting and talking about how great a year it was. After the sock contest we started the White Elephant Gift Exchange. The first birthday was selected from the middle of the year. As always, there are and were some great gifts. Many of them got stolen from members and several members like Margie ended up picking several gifts as hers were popular and others wanted them. A couple of gifts from several years previous also circulated. More about this with photos in another article. As usual, the party was great and we had a lot of fun. Thanks to everyone for coming and participating and making this one of our club's greatest annual events.





# WHITE ELEPHANT PHOTOS

BY MIKE BAILEY

Seems like the White Elephant Gift exchange at the annual Christmas Party is always a hit. We always have gifts that are "coveted" by the club members and taken many times (3 times allowed by our rules) from one member to the next. Some of the types of gifts seem to be alcoholic beverages (wine and liquors). I am not sure what this tells folks about our club members, but it is all in jest! Also some items that are usually certain ladies under garments seem to be popular. One item in particular (the black nightie) has circulated for several consecutive years and always seems to keep coming back.

This year it was fun to watch the items that Margie Newson received and were consequently 'stolen' by members. I have a series of photos of Margie's gifts. I hope Margie ended up with what she really wanted.



The ladies evening wear, as mentioned, seems to be popular. This one outfit I think was received by my wife, Lynn, the first year I remember it. That seems to have been 4-5 years ago. It is still going around. Seems like Nikki, Brent's wife wanted one and when she didn't get the first one, she tried for another one. Maybe both of these items will circulate in the future!

Another item that has recirculated for several years is the Auto Air Cleaner Zoom Zoom Hat. I think this was originally made by Dave Encheff. Each year it seems that something is added to this hat. Let's hope this item will keep coming back for years to come. Who knows, as someone might get attached to it and we won't see it again. Through the years we have had many gifts circulate from year to year. A couple come to my mind, one being the Taxidermy Wide Mouth Bass Fish that was on a wood mount and another was the "Snowman Pillow" which my wife first gifted and kept coming back for many years. It finally disappeared. If you don't know that story, ask most any of the old-time members about that one.





# CANDID CAMERA CHRISTMAS

BY MIKE BAILEY

