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MARK VAUGHN



MAY 2016

THE CONVERTABLE CHRONICLES OF THE UTAH MIATA CLUB

FROM THE TOP DOWN

SUBMITTED BY MIKE BAILEY



"April Showers bring May Flowers" at least that's what they say. I have not yet turned the sprinklers on to water my lawn so it's good that we are getting all the moisture lately. We always need it to fill our reservoirs anyway. The only thing I don't like is driving my Miata in the rain like I did coming back home from the Deer Valley ReCon trip as it was very nasty and a downpour. Speaking about the ReCon drive, it was well attended and we were able to finalize a lot of our plans for our major Miata event there which is less than two months away. More information is in my ReCon article in this newsletter. Last month we had a drive led by Vaughns' after our luncheon at Red Robin to the West Desert and namely one of our favorite twisty roads out there, Johnson Pass. This is a photo taken by Mark Midgley at the parking lot up there. Pretty cool photo, Mark!

It seems like we have a few good Miata trips planned already this year thanks to Steve Beckstead, Lou and the Vaughns. Be sure to check various NL articles and information on the club website for these and book your rooms if you are planning to go as they fill up quickly. End of May will be the **Moab Gateway Weekend Scenic Getaway**--a great weekend that will take us to one of our favorite places, Moab, Utah. Also if you have not been to Gateway, Colorado, this is a fun place to see also with a very nice Classic Car Auto Museum to visit, not counting the great scenic drive to get there and back home.

Continued on page 2

From the Top Down (Continued From Page 1)

A month later we will be celebrating **Miatas in Utah VII** with our **Miatas at Deer Valley**. I have been working on this event almost two years and it is finally almost here. I'm getting very excited about it as it will be tons of fun. Any Utah Members that are not yet registered, please get registered soon so we can have a count on things for planning purposes. Even if you don't want to stay each night at the venue hotel, at least you can drive up each day for all the activities and to be with all your Miata friends. It will be definitely worth the Registration Fee! It is also a great opportunity to make new friends with Miata people from across the country and other states, which will become lasting relationships of which we have found to be very true. We have a world famous comedian that will be entertaining us, Johnny Biscuit, and as Larry King touts him as "one of the funniest guys ever". Johnny used to own a Miata for 5 years, so he knows what that is all about! Be sure to come and also view updates on the event in this newsletter.

In July is the trip planned by Mark and Susan Vaughn to Pike's Peak Colorado and back. This will be about a week long. View all the details, book your rooms and get on board for this as it will be lots of fun with plenty of twisties to give a workout to our Miatas. Later in the year towards end of October is Beckstead's trip to the Sun Valley (Idaho) Jazz Festival. Lots of fun and good music so see details on that if you are interested.

I also want to mention our **Miata Club Viking River Cruise to Europe** which is now exactly one year away on May 10, 2017. This is being billed as "**The Trip of a Lifetime.**" Indeed it will be and if you ask yourself this question; "How many opportunities will I get to go to Western and Eastern Europe for 15-20 days?" Probably not many, so here is your chance to do it and with a lot of your Miata friends. We have about 60 cabins booked with Miata people and their families and friends. Check out the website link on the Morris Murdock website page to our cruise. There are still cabin suites available and this time next year we will be getting ready to head out. I want to thank my main man, Donn Cichocki, for helping me so much with this and putting out emails and links to everyone on the cruise.

More news is out about the new **MX-5 RF (Miata Retractable Fastback Hardtop)** and it should have it's debut sometime end of Summer, I am told. Others tell me not till first of the year in 2017. I know Gordy has put his deposit down on one, supposedly to be delivered this November and Jim also has his name on a list for one. More to come on this exciting new edition to the Miata family. As we start our Summer season of Top-Down driving, we want to remind everyone to be safe and have fun in their Miatas this summer.

Zoom - Zoom. Mike



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		EXPIRING 5/31/2016	
DAVE SHARETTE	2/29/16	TERESA BLACK	
		LARRY & ORESSA DECKERT	
NADIA J. KENNEDY	3/31/16	WILLEY & LINDA GERLACH	
		RICK & DAYNA KISER	
DAVE & ANA PORTER		RAY MANNING	
AL BROWN	4/30/16	SPENCE WOOD	
CYNDEE BOYVEY			

TO BE REMOVED FROM ROSTER : MICHAEL J. FOX, LYNN & ALEXA MALAND, G. STEVEN & LISA SULLIVAN

NEW MEMBERS

MICHAEL & FRANCES HUTTON - 2016 SOUL RED CATHY CORDILL - 2016 SOUL RED
 KAY BARRELL - 2007 SILVER BRADLEY LOWE - CERAMIC RICHARD TEASDALE - 1997 WHITE
 JEFF WIGHT - 2016 RED LARRY & KATHY PETERSEN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ERIC ACHTER 1ST
 KEVIN FOARD 5TH
 RICHARD TEASDALE 6TH
 LARRY DECKERT 9TH
 JOE NIEMAN 14TH
 SCOTTY MEDINE 22ND
 REXANNE POND 28TH



TODD CHRISTOPHER 5TH
 RONDA BECKSTEAD 6TH
 JIM BOWERS 9TH
 JUDY DYSON 10TH
 STEVE TOBIASSON 17TH
 SHAWNA MIDGLEY 22ND



UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

2016 Calendar of Events

(Submitted and updated by Steve Beckstead)

April 23rd: Park City Recon for Deer Valley event planning

May 14th: **Monthly lunch** at Players Grill Diamond Fork Drive (Steve)

May 20th: Bedrock Gateway scenic loop weekend (Steve)

June 4th: **Monthly lunch** and meeting **Location TBD**

June 22nd -26th: Miatas in Deer Valley Event

July 9th: (Date changed) Annual Summer picnic in Morgan (Mike, Jim)

July 17th to 23rd: To Pike's Peak and back (Mark Vaughn)

August 13th: **Monthly lunch** and Shunpike Drive Location (Gordy TBD)

September 10th: **Monthly lunch** and meeting **Location TBD**

October 1st: **Monthly lunch** meeting probably Nebo Loop (Steve) TBD

October 20th to 22th: Sun Valley jazz Festival (Lou, Steve)

October 29th: Halloween Party (Tentative, location TBD)

November 5th: **Monthly lunch** meeting possible Lava Overnighter (Lori)

December 10th: Annual Christmas Celebration (Mike and Lynn)

MAY 2016 LUNCHEON AND DRIVE

BY MIKE BAILEY

May 2016 Luncheon and Drive
Saturday, May 14, 2016 Time: 11:30 am

Player's Sport's Grill
718 W. Coliseum Way in Midvale (7200 S. and 700 West)
Phone is 801-878-9411

Directions: Just go West off of 7200 South and I-15 Exit to 700 West. Turn left at street light on 700 West and you will see it a half block down on right side. We will have the seating area on west side of restaurant to the right as you go in front door. All the food is excellent and reasonably priced.

Regular club items and plans for the next few months will be discussed as usual. After the meeting we will be going on a Miata drive to Diamond Fork Canyon which is off Hwy. 6, off the Spanish Fork exit in Utah County. This is our second Utah County drive of the year. Steve Beckstead will lead this drive. The route to get there will be explained by Steve during the luncheon or at Driver's meeting in the parking lot.

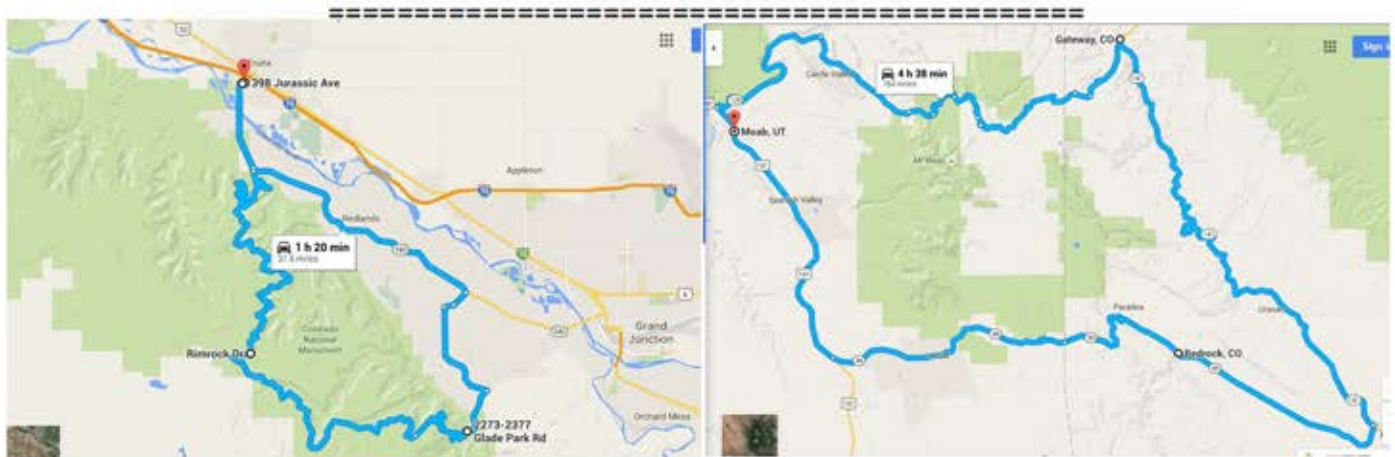
We hope to see everyone there with their Miata Tops down and with their Miata 'Grin'. (lol)
If you have an FRS Radio please bring it as it will be helpful. We monitor Channel 5.5.



Moab Gateway Weekend Scenic Getaway May 20

Submitted by Steve Beckstead

It's time to get those convertibles out of the garage and on some scenic roads! | This is a great scenic weekend and all it takes is 3 days. The agenda is below and many have booked Comfort Inn rooms by now. Prices are now around \$135/night, but I think still available. Room rates are high and scarce in Moab and the drive works best staying in Fruita, CO anyway. We'll sleep at the Comfort Inn in Fruita at 400 Jurassic Avenue, close to Colorado National Monument. Staying both nights means no checkout hassles, just hit the road the second day. Their phone is (970) 858-1333 or online. If you are going, GET A ROOM QUICKLY. This is a bargain scenic weekend and the reason we bought these cars, remember!! (People having to work Friday could actually drive to Fruita after work and get most of the trip). **We have 10 cars so far including one driver from Las Vegas driving up to go with us!**



The Details and Agenda

Friday, May 20th

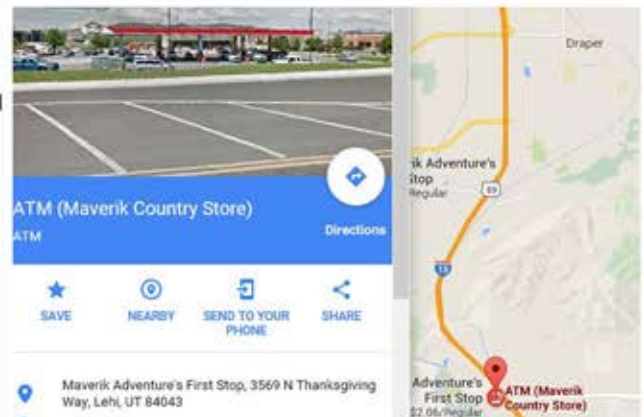
We will meet at the Maverick at Thanksgiving point where we have on drives before. Address is 3569 North Thanksgiving way, Lehi, UT, just off I-15 exit Exit 284. We'll leave at 8:30, drive down Highway 6 to I-70 and over to the Comfort Inn in Fruita (about 4 hours plus lunch and gas stop probably Green River). We'll go directly to the Colorado National Monument and do scenic Rimrock Loop (about 1.5 hours plus any stops) and back to Fruita for the night.

Saturday, May 21st

This is the gorgeous big ride day! If you have not been on these roads, you are in for a real treat. It's about 6 hours of two lane fun down Highway 141, then around to Moab, follow the Colorado River across Highway 128 and back to Fruita. Possible stops include Gateway Auto Museum or Moab for lunch.

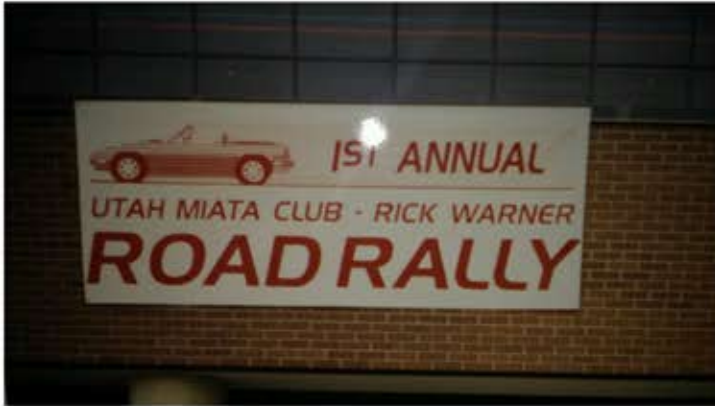
Sunday, May 22nd

This day we check out for home, but fun's not over yet. We will go up and around the Vernal way to go home a different way. Drive home will be about 5.5 hours. Any wanting to hurry home back the same way.



HISTORY OF THE UTAH MIATA CLUB

BY MIKE BAILEY



Mazda Road Rally's have been held since the first Miata came out. Even the Utah Miata Club (written and pronounced UTMiATA CLUB back then) had it's first **Road Rally September 28, 1991 in Salt Lake**. It was sponsored by Rick Warner Mazda, one of the dealer sponsors back then. Several dealers back then, such as Cline's Mazda, were involved with the club and even had their own Miatas in Autocross and other events. Other Mazda dealers were Bountiful Lincoln-Mercury Mazda and Campus Mazda in Provo. The Utah Rally was organized and put on by Dale

Emery and Rich Dyer from the Utah club. Rick Warner Mazda provide complimentary T-Shirts to rally participants and also awarded prizes and trophies to the winners. It was an exciting event.

David Brewer (top left photo in red Miata on 4 photo collage) won first prize and scored the highest points on the Rally. Many of you know David as he has participated in several events the past few years (Christmas party and Wild Flower Hike up at Snowbird). He still owns the same 1990 Red Miata. I am sad to report that he has had to drop out of the club due to health issues but was an active member for most of the past 25 years. Our very own current members, **Jim and Dorothy Bowers** took 7th Place in the Rally in 1991. They have also participated in several other rallies that I directed through the years (early 2000's) with Dan Tolley and other members, and one year took First Place. They loved rallies and usually won an award most every time. It has been several years since the club put on a rally, but in the years 1997-2006 or so, we did a rally every year. Last time I led one was with Bill Card back in 2013 that went up to Trapper's Loop, through Eden and by Pineview Reservoir ending at Carlos and Harley's for lunch and to pass out awards. Rallies are always fun and we need to get back, as a club, to planning and doing more of them.



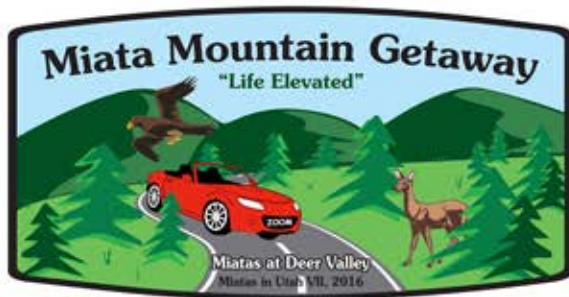
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On another note, I found a great photo of the Bowers and Paul and Annie Kloer, current members that will be celebrating 25 Years with the Utah Miata Club this year. This photo was taken at a pool-side event at Lava Hot Springs back in the late Summer of 1991. The club has kept the tradition of going to Lava Hot Spring in Idaho for many years. Look how young they look in this photo from 25 years ago. (two couples in center and far right). Congratulations to the Kloers and Bowers for being such great members of the club.

Stay tuned to more **"History of the Utah Miata Club"** articles to appear in this newsletter this year!





Miatas at Deer Valley, 2016

MAY UPDATE

June 22-25, 2016

by Mike Bailey

ONLY 2 MONTHS TO GO

Register NOW & book your Room if you have not done so yet!
Registration Fee is \$145.00 per person.

- * Outdoor FREE Summer Concert: Wednesday night, June 22nd.
 - * FREE Welcome Social on Thursday Night!
 - * Headliner Comedian "Johnny Biscuit" to perform at Saturday Evening Dinner Program
 - * Tom Matano: Original Designer of Miata MX-5 Featured Guest and sponsored by Mazda North American. You may be able to get him to "sign his signature phrase on your Miata"
- "Over 3,586 hits on Miata.Net Forum on our event"**
another 700+ since last month



UTAH MIATA CLUB JULY TRIP TO PIKE'S PEAK AND BACK

When; Saturday July 16, 2016 to Friday July 22, 2016

Basic Plan Total Miles 1493 Miles

Day 1, Saturday July 16th Salt Lake City to Steam Boat Springs, Colorado. 333 Miles

The Drive

Leave Salt Lake City from Fashion Place Mall Parking Lot at 8:00 am , travel north on I-15 to I-80 east to the junction of I-80 and US 189. US 189 south to Heber, in Heber take 40 east to Vernal. Early lunch in Vernal then continue east with a possible side trip to Dinosaur National Monument visitor center just north of Jensen, Utah. After the side trip continue east on US 40 into Colorado through Craig than onto Steamboat Springs. Stop for the night in Steamboat.

Day 2, Sunday July 17th Steam Boat Springs to Central City, Colorado via Rocky Mountain National Park / Estes Park, Colorado. 206 Miles

The Drive

Leave Steamboat Springs at 8:30 am on US 40 east to Granby, Co. then north on US 34 to Grand Lake, Co for lunch. After lunch continue US 34 through Rocky Mountain National Park to Estes Park. From Estes Park take US 7 south to Raymond, CO.. From Raymond continue south on US 72 to Eldora, Co. From Eldora continue south on US 119 to Central City. Stop for the night in Central City.

Day 3, Monday July 18th Central City, Colorado to Cripple Creek, Colorado via Leadville and Buena Vista Colorado 193 Miles

The Drive

Leave Central City at 9:00 am on 6 south to I-70. I-70 west through the Eisenhower tunnel to Cooper Mountain, Co.. From Copper Mountain continue south on US 91 to Leadville, Co. Poke around Leadville and have lunch. Leave Leadville on US 24 south to Buena Vista, Co than east on US 285/24 east over Trout Creek Pass than east on US 24 to Florissant, Co.. From Florissant continue south on Teller County road 1 to Cripple Creek, Co.. Stop for the night in Cripple Creek.

Day 4 Tuesday July 19th Cripple Creek, Colorado to Salida, Colorado via the top of Pike's Peak and Royal Gorge Colorado 193 miles

The Drive

Busy Day. Leave Cripple Creek at 8:00 am north on US 67 to Divide, CO then east on US 24 to the Pikes Peak toll rd. Travel to the top of Pikes Peak, enjoy the view and take pictures. Leave from the top of Pikes Peak to US 24. Travel west on US 24 to Divide, Co., just west of Divide take Hwy 42 (Twin Rocks Rd) to Teller County Rd. 1. Travel south on Teller County Rd. to the Junction of Hwy 11 turn right on to 11. Follow 11 south to HWY 9 turn right onto Hwy 9 continue south to US 50. Turn left onto US 50. Traveling east on US 50 to the turn off to the Royal

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UTAH MIATA CLUB JULY TRIP TO PIKE'S PEAK AND BACK

CONTINUED FRM PAGE 10

Gorge Bridge and Park. Enjoy the bridge and park. Leave the bridge back out to US 50. Travel West on US 50 to Salida, Co.. Stop for the night in Salida, Co..

Day 5 Wednesday July 20th Salida , Colorado to Glenwood Springs, Colorado via the east side of Black Canyon 222 Miles

The Drive

Leave Salida at 9:00 am on US 50 traveling west over Monarch Pass (11,312 ft.) and onto Sapinero, Co. Turn right (north) onto Hwy 92 (very twisty rd.) along the east side of Black Canyon) to Hotchkiss, Co.. Turn right (north) onto Hwy 133 to Carbondale, Co.. Turn left (north) on Hwy 82 to Glenwood Springs, Co. Stop for the night in Glenwood Springs, Co.

Day 6 Thursday July 21th Glenwood Springs to Salt Lake City, Utah 346 Miles

The Drive

Leave 9:00 am or at your choosing. Travel west on I-70 to Rifle, Co. than north US 13 out of Rifle, Co.. Continue on US 13 north to the junction of US 64 turn left (west) on US 64 to Dinosaur, Co.. Turn left (west) onto US 40 continue US 40 to Heber, Utah.

It's your choice from here to your home.

A Block of rooms has been set up for the 5 nights. Contact Susan and Mark for details on the Rooms

**Thanks,
Susan and Mark**



MIATA OF THE MONTH/VANITY PLATE

BY MIKE BAILEY

Miata of the Month is a Soul Red 4th Generation ND Miata owned by Rich and Nancy Singer. They live in Salt Lake. They just joined the club first of March of this year. We welcome them to the club and hope them join us often. Photos on the drive to Johnson Pass in Tooele County.



This month's personalized Vanity Plate ZINGM is owned by Mark and Shauna Midgley. The Midgley's joined the club last September 2015. They own the Metallic Blue ND MX-5. You will have to get the details from Mark on his vanity plate, but it is a saying personal to him from his past. Photos of Mark on the April Drive to Johnson Pass in Tooele County.



VIKING RIVER CRUISE



VIKING RIVER CRUISE MAY 2016 UPDATE

BY MIKE BAILEY

**New Morris Murdock Web Site Page:****<https://mmi.cvent.com/GrandEuropeanTour2017>**

Check out the **"NEW"** web page on **"OUR"** Cruise created by the Morris Murdock Travel team. We have a NEW Viking Longboat Ship as our ship was reassigned to a different itinerary. New ship's name is the VIKING SKIRNIR. It is also one year newer, built in 2015, a few months ago. Also our Sailing Departure Date is one day later; July 10, 2017.



Details on the cruise on our UMC Website: www.utahmiataclub.org Click Viking Logo Ship for Details. Put the word out to family, friends, and other Miata people for "the Trip of a Lifetime!". Also keep tuned in on our Viking River Cruise Facebook Page about our cruise.

Over 1,280 Hits on Miata.net Forum

Join us for a 15 Day Grand European River Tour:
Sailing Date is July 10-24, 2017
Our ship is called the Viking Skirnir

SUN VALLEY JAZZ FESTIVAL OCTOBER 20TH THRU 24TH, 2016

SUBMITTED BY STEVE BECKSTEAD

Sun Valley Jazz Festival
October 20-24, 2016
Sun Valley, Idaho
<http://www.sunvalleyjazz.com/>

Hey Utah Miata friends;

Come join us at the **Sun Valley Jazz festival in October**. We wanted to get this to you now, because the rooms for these things fill up early. The event is October 20-24th 2016, up in Sun Valley, Idaho. If you have never been to one of these it is the most musical fun ever, full of Dixieland, Zydeco, boogie woogie and the best guitarist I have ever personally heard. Ronda and I have been to a number of these around the West, and this one is packed with all the best groups we have ever seen.

We have booked rooms at the Best Western Tyrolean Hotel in Ketchum for 3 nights, October 20, 21, 22nd. It's about \$480 total, but nice place and near event with a shuttle. Also breakfast, of course. Rooms will go fast so suggest at least reserving. Change your mind later, you can cancel reservation. There are also other places to stay if you prefer or Best Western is full. Also passes for the whole event are \$145 each, but can be advance purchased until July 31st, so no hurry on that expense.

Being late October and in Idaho, the weather will determine whether this is a Miata top down event or a support vehicle type thing!

If you are interested in how this works with all these bands, ask us! At least 6 couples have signed up that I know of, so jump in with us and let's do music and fun,

Lou Vredevelt and Steve Beckstead



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Blue Street Jazz Band

Sponsored by: Pat & Perry Cantwell, Tim Gee & Mary Kay Walker

The Blue Street Jazz Band is one of the most innovative groups in traditional jazz. The band earned the reputation as The Bad Boys of Dixieland for their eclectic tastes in music. At any performance the audience is liable to hear various styles of music including swing, Mardi Gras, folk, marches, waltzes, Latin music, and hymns.

Uniquely, Blue Street Jazz Band touts four music educators: Dave Ruffner, a retired high school band director, Rick Canfield, a junior high school band director, Forrest Helmick, an elementary music teacher, and Sherilyn Colby who has her doctorate in Jazz History. Expect jet propelled traditional jazz with eclectic interludes.



Tom Rigney & Flambeau

Sponsored by: Don & Ellen Easterbrook, Carol & Len Harlig

Tom Rigney, a fiery, electrifying violinist / composer, joins forces with some of the finest musicians on the San Francisco roots music scene to form Tom Rigney & Flambeau, a band that generates enough heat and energy to ignite a dance floor or lift an audience to its feet.

Tom Rigney & Flambeau were voted Best Cajun / Zydeco Band of 2004 by the West Coast Blues Hall of Fame. Cajun and Zydeco two-step, low-down blues, funky New Orleans grooves, and heartbreaking beautiful ballads and waltzes.

Member Spotlight by: Carol Lynn Vredeveld

It's my pleasure this month to spotlight one of our past club members; Richard Teasdale. He has been a Miata owner and club member since 1997 and remained an active member until 2007 when he moved out of state. He returned to Utah and recently decided to dig his precious Miata out of storage and post some of his drives on facebook. Thanks to our Miata Ambassador, "Annette Nielsen", she saw his posts and sent him our newsletter with details on our Springville luncheon and drive; and guess who showed up!



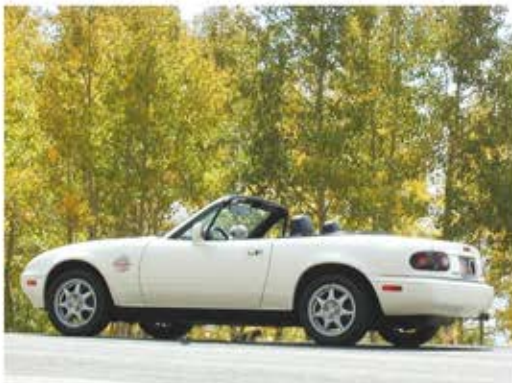
Richard is a multi-talented guy with a love for music and Miatas! We were very pleased to see him at the club luncheon after being gone for quite some time. I'm sure you will enjoy reading Richards's story and getting to know him as much as I did!

I am the original owner of a White 1997 PEP Miata (Popular Equipment Package)

I wanted a Miata when they first came out in 1989. I grew up just down the street from a young guy with a British open roadster. I was too young to know what make or model it was, I just knew it was a cool convertible sports car and I was hooked on roadsters from then on.

When I saw the new Miata in 1989, I drooled and told my wife I wanted one. She said, "maybe when we're retired." As fate would have it, we divorced in 1997 and as soon as she moved out I started thinking about getting a Miata. I sold my Camry and leased a new '97 Miata in September of '97. I actually went to the dealership several times and just sat in one for about an hour each time to make sure I could tolerate being in such a small car.

They had a few in stock: a red base model, a white touring package, a green M Edition, and the white PEP I leased. It has almost everything the M had except for the tan leather and tan top. I added A/C, a CD changer, and an alarm system.



Immediately after leasing the Miata I started searching the Internet for other Miata people and knowledge. I found Miata.net and joined their massive mailing list which was generating about 200 emails a day! I found out about the Utah County Miata Club from someone on the mailing list, but Bill Bates actually invited me to come to a drive with the statewide Utah Miata Club that October. I loved the people and the cars and joined immediately!

I remained a very active member of the club until 2007. I moved to Michigan in March of that year and left the Miata behind in storage. I finally decided to get the Miata out of storage and get back involved.

I was born in Salt Lake City and grew up in Provo. I went to Provo High School and Provo School of Music where I studied composition, theory, music history, and piano performance.

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Member Spotlight by: Carol Lynn Vredeveld

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Besides living in Utah I spent one year in Grand Blanc, Michigan (south of Flint) and two years in northern France and Belgium as a missionary in the '70s.

I am now designing and building websites for a living. (Great work for a music school guy, eh?)

I've been married twice, to my first wife for 20 years and my second wife for 7 years.

I have two children (a son and a daughter) that I built from scratch and another daughter that I purchased (adopted). I have ten grandkids total fairly evenly distributed between them. I've always had a dog, but I'm currently without. My Boston Terrier had to be put down last year and I need to get another one.

I seem to have lost my spouse, right along with my glasses, my favorite pen, and my wristwatch! Although I did just find my old Seiko watch I lost (packed in a box) after my move in 2004. :-). I'm looking for a replacement wife because going on trips alone kind of sucks.

As you might guess, I play the piano and the organ. I played clarinet in school but not so much these days. I love going to theater and opera and symphony concerts. I've been an avid photographer as well, and I seem to have developed a love of small open cars.



I like to travel. I don't need to fly away and stay in a fancy hotel to enjoy traveling. I love to get in the car and drive to some remote place and see what's there. I'm just fine in any dumpy motel as long as it's clean. That's what we did on our Miata trips in Europe. After the three day rally event, we drove around the countryside, finding two-horse towns and stopping to eat or chat with the locals. We also visited the Normandy Beaches during the 2000 trip. Spence and Sherry Wood joined us for that trip and we loved it. They were perfect travel partners! Our wives made fun of us as often as possible, and we returned the favor. We had an absolutely wonderful time.

I've had so many great Miata stories that it's hard to pick favorites.

My second wife and I went to two international Miata events in Paris, France and Bruges, Belgium in 1998 and 2000. We were able to rent Miatas from a specialty car rental firm called TopFunCars (a Budget subsidiary) in Rijswijk, Netherlands, which is a suburb of The Hague.

After our trip in 1998, we were returning our car the night before departing, but they were closed when we got there, so we had to find a hotel in The Hague. There was nothing available except two very expensive rooms, one each in two different five star hotels. So we reserved one over the phone

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Member Spotlight by: Carol Lynn Vredeveld

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

in the Park Hotel and drove there. It was on a one-way loop road and we could see the sign but we couldn't see the hotel.

After making about five loops to see if we could find it, I pulled up to a gated entry just past the sign to ask where it was and two nice young ladies came to greet me in the car, wearing uniforms and carrying sidearms!

I told the pretty blonde Dutch girl with the guns I was looking for the Park Hotel and asked half-jokingly if this was it. She smiled and replied, "No, this is Queen Beatrix's palace." She explained that there was a speakerphone on the post as you enter the barricaded street next to the hotel sign, and if I would press the button, they would verify my reservation and lower the barricades so we could drive down the street where the hotel was. I should have just asked her if we could stay with Queen Beatrix since the palace was huge.



One of the years I was president of the club, we had several members from the San Diego Club come up and join us for the Fall Leaf Drive. In fact, more came than we expected. We had about 16-17 cars from the San Diego Club and about 17-18 cars from our club, so I was leading a group



of about 35 cars. I was a little panicked about where we were going to stop for lunch because (1) it was a Sunday, and (2) we always ate in Mt. Pleasant and there wasn't any place that could handle a group that large that would be open.

I had my wife calling when we were in the valleys to make sure we were going to be okay. She called a small place we'd eaten at before and the owner/manager (who was working Sunday alone) appreciated the heads up. He said he'd call in an employee and they could handle us, but it would be a little slow. It was slow, but we had a great time there.

I'm delighted to be back with the club again! Once I got my Miata back on the road, I was taking pictures and posting them on Facebook. Annette Nielsen saw my posts there and sent me the March newsletter so I could catch up. I saw the club was eating lunch in Springville so I showed up with my dirty Miata, still being cleaned and brought back to life. I wish I had a picture of Mike Bailey's face when I walked in the door! It was great seeing a few familiar faces again and a lot of new faces to get to know!

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Member Spotlight by: Carol Lynn Vredeveld

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I was president of the club for four years in 1999-2002 and loved going on almost weekly drives during the summer months. I like to drive my car! I don't want to die and leave behind a Miata with only 10k miles on it! I'm going to wear it out!

One thing I've learned about Miata owners/Miata club members over the years: They are among the nicest people I've met. Our club members here and the members of other clubs from all over the US and Europe have all been fabulously wonderful people. Leasing (and then buying) my Miata was one of the best things I've done in my life! It's great to be back!

And if anyone has any questions about how my car survived ten years in storage, it took it like a trooper. The clutch was out when I stored it, planning to get it worked on and back on the road, but you know how those things go.

I had it towed to a local repair shop with a top reputation for good work. The clutch was fine after all. It just needed the clutch master and slave cylinders replaced. It also needed a new fuel pump, battery, engine and transmission seals, and I had them replace the timing belt and water pump as well. I also had them install some Flyin' Miata springs and KYB shocks I'd purchased some time earlier. I purchased some new tires (Dunlop Direzza ZII Star Spec) for it as well. It runs like a top!

Richard, we are very happy to welcome you back to the club and we will certainly be on the lookout for a replacement wife...or at the very least, another puppy to keep you company on our upcoming drives!



CANDID CAMERA

BY MIKE BAILEY



MAY RECIPE

BY ANA PORTER

Cherry Cheesecake Shooters

12 ea graham crackers rectangles
 One 8 oz pkg cream cheese
 1 can sweetened condensed milk
 1 can cherry pie filling
 2 tbs flaked almonds, chopped

Put the crackers in a ziplock bag and bash with a rolling pin into fine crumbs.
 Spoon the crumbs into the bottoms of small wine glasses.
 Add the cream cheese and sweetened condensed milk to the bowls of and electric mixer and whip until light and fluffy.
 Spoon into a pastry bag and pipe a big helping over the crumbs in ea of the glasses.
 Top with a couple of teasps of cherry pie filling, and then some almond flakes.
 Set to cool and serve.



Eggplant Gratin **Serve 9**

Used good olive oil, for frying
 3/4 pound eggplants, unpeeled sliced 1/2 inch thick
 1/4 cup ricotta cheese
 1 xlarge egg or two
 1/4 cup half and half
 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese plus 2 tbs, divided
 Kosher salt
 Freshly ground pepper
 1/2 cup good bottled marinara sauce

Oven 400 degrees
 Heat the olive oil about 1/8 in a heavy pan over medium heat. When the oil is almost smoking add several slices of eggplant and cook, turning once until evenly browned on both sides. About 5 minutes. Be careful not to splatters.
 Set on top of paper towel to drain.
 Add more until all the slices are cooked.
 In a small bowl, mix ricotta, eggs, half and half and a 1/4 of parmesan cheese, salt and pepper 1/8 tsp of ea.
 Now start to layer eggplant and the another layer of the cheese

