



## ***The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club***

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### **From the Top Down “Celebrating 30 Years of the Miata”** By: Mike Bailey, President

It's March now and hopefully we will start to get some warm weather coming in for Spring and the early Miata driving season. I'm looking forward to getting my Miatas out and start driving them after having them stored away in the garage all winter long. It seems that the older I get the more I look forward to spring and summer to come so we can be constantly out driving our Miatas. Not sure if all of you feel that way, but I know many do. It has become one of my passions to go out on top down drives, no matter where it is. I also look forward to trips that we are planning and I constantly want to plan more of them. I'm looking forward to five months from now for the Rocky Mountain Road trip to Glacier National Park. If you have not been there maybe you should plan to go as it is an awesome drive with lots of fun places to see and things to do! By last count we have 15 member couples signed up with hotel reservations made. And, the people you will be traveling with are so Awesome! Details about this trip is on the 'Events' section on our club Facebook page.

On another note, we will be meeting for our luncheon and March meeting, for the first time in a year at a restaurant. It will be at Legends Sports Pub in Sandy, just off 10600 S. & I-15. See details on this in this newsletter. After our meeting, we will take a drive that will last a couple hours around the west side of Utah Lake to Elberta, Eureka, Rush Valley and end in Saratoga Springs (weather permitting).

The photo for this issue of "Ragtops to Ridges" was taken at the parking lot inside Capitol Reef National Park at the end of the Capital Gorge Road and Trailhead. It is a very scenic spot to stop and take a break. We did this drive from our weekend overnigher last year to Bryce, Torrey and Capitol Reef. This always is a favorite trip of mine and I never seem to get tired of doing it, as we have done this trip for many years. Those who went know how much fun we had.

As President of the club, I am always trying to think of some fun and different things to do on our activities. A new thing this year will be to do the Vanderhall Roadster Tour in Provo, which will be similar to the Kirkham Motorsports tour we have done a couple times in years' past. It is scheduled for the 4th week of this month on a week day, as this is the only date I could get signed up for.

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With all of us being "into roadsters" this will be something fun. Details on this is mentioned in this newsletter. Also several of us will be going on a more exotic "Supercar Tour" on our MiataLand Trip, when we tour Bologna, Italy in late October for the Pagani Italian Motorsports visit, home of the Lamborghini, Ferrari, and Maserati. After our private lunch and tour of their facilities and museum, etc. we will have a 40 minute drive in a Lamborghini Aventador or Huracan model on their private racetrack! Promise to not wreck it or you may have to come up with a half million to get back home! I am so much looking forward to this adventure!

I had my first Covid vaccination the middle of February and will have my second one in less than two weeks. Lynn has had both of hers and I know many in the club have had theirs, especially with the over 65 crowd. I'm really hoping we can get back to more normal circumstances within the next few months and that many businesses and places that we like to visit will open up to groups once again. The hospital cases are moving downward and it appears that travel is picking up. I hope that everyone will continue to stay safe and be careful when around other people, especially those whom you do not know. Let's make it a good year of Miata driving and activities and get things back to the way they once were. **Zoom - Zoom.....Mike**



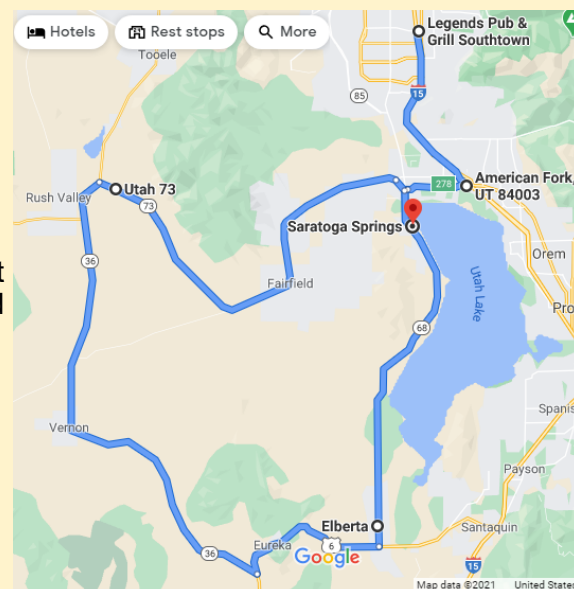
## March 6th Luncheon Meeting & Drive

**Date & Time:** Saturday, March 6th 11:30 AM  
**Location:** Legends Sport Pub & Grill Southtown  
**Address:** 10631 S. Holiday Park Road, Sandy, UT 84070.  
**Phone:** 801-679-1749



**Information:** Legends is located off 10600 South and east side of I-15, across from Southtown Mall to the south. Take first street east of the freeway and turn right and it is just on the left hand side of the road. We will be meeting on the right side of restaurant as you enter the front door, in a semi-private area. Tables will be set up for our group. We will order off the menu which features burgers, sandwiches, salads, pizza, and most pub style food and drinks. Adults only, please no children. We will have our monthly meeting after we order our food. Please come with your face masks to wear at all times except when eating. We will have our meeting and discuss upcoming events and activities.

**Drive Information:** After lunch we will assemble in the parking lot and drive south on I-15 to Pioneer Crossing (Hwy 145 West) exit 278 right going West, just past Thanksgiving Point. Travel west to Saratoga Springs and turn left onto Hwy 68 which travels south on the west side of Utah Lake. From there you will know the way to Elberta. If I happen to drive a little fast along the first portion of this road it is because I like to catch the top of the little hills on the road. We may stop at the old Sinclair gas station for a photo op. This station was built in 1917 and remained in operation until 1982. From there we will head to Eureka. If anyone needs a potty stop, we will announce this over our FRS radios, and stop. Note: there are *No Restroom Service* except possibly Eureka, until we get to our destination. We will drive past Vernon and then turn east at Rush Valley onto Hwy. 73 to Cedar Fort. We continue past Eagle Mountain to our destination at Saratoga Springs. It will be about 140-150 miles round trip and take about 3 hours but it will be a fun get-away, and hopefully the sun will be out with blue skies. This trip is based on weather permitting. This was the first drive we did last year when Covid started. Be sure to bring your FRS two-way radios so we can communicate. If someone wants to lead a sing-along while we are driving, you are welcome to do that! Hope to see a good crowd come out.





# Birthdays & Memberships

## NEW MEMBERS

NAME	DATE
NONE	

## Expiring Soon: \$35 Dual / \$25 Single

NAME	EXPIRING
BILL & JANET ANDERSON	3/31/2021
JIM & MARILYN BICKLEY	3/31/2021
MARSHALL DING	3/31/2021
DOUGLAS KLUENDER	3/31/2021
GARY & GAGE LAMBERT	3/31/2021
ROBERT & SHARON MECHLING	3/31/2021
RICHARD MUELLER	3/31/2021
BOB & KIM RICHARDS	3/31/2021

## Membership Expired: \$35 Dual / \$25 Single Membership

NAME	EXPIRED
ERIC ACHTER	1/31/2021
BILAL AIJAZ	2/28/2021
RICK & DANETTE DAVIS	2/28/2021
DARWIN & LORI STEED	12/31/2020

## REMOVED FROM ROSTER

NAME	EXPIRED
LYNNE AOYAMA	10/31/2020
MARK CRABBE	10/31/2020
SCHUYLER WHITE	10/31/2020



NAME	BIRTHDAY
TONYA ASHMENT	1 Mar
PATTY CHASE	3 Mar
DAVE PORTER	3 Mar
ERIC KANKAINEN	11 Mar
ROBERT KLINSHAW	22 Mar
RICHARD ALVERADO	28 Mar
STEVEN SPACKMAN	28 Mar

## Membership Dues Reminder

If you wish to renew your membership, and we hope you will, please give or send a check to Club Treasurer, Margie Newson, for the appropriate amount. **A Dual Membership (for yourself and a spouse, sibling or significant other) is \$35, and \$25 for Single. It is \$35 dual/\$25 single if you have the newsletter e-mailed to you, or \$45 if you would like a hard copy sent by standard mail.** You can also pay your dues online with PayPal on our website; [www.utahmiataclub.org](http://www.utahmiataclub.org). This method is \$35 / \$25 (plus PayPal fees). If mailing a check, please send to: 233 West 1550 North, Bountiful, Utah 84010. Make your check payable to the Utah Miata Club. Margie can also be contacted by phone at 801-295-4563 or by e-mail at [sec.treasuremc@icloud.com](mailto:sec.treasuremc@icloud.com).

## Club Officers

President: Mike Bailey

Vice President: Hank Pond

Secretary: Jim Newson

Board Members: Valerie Francis, Brian Christiansen, Ken Jaworski

Treasurer: Margie Newson

## Driving Safety By: Jan Jaworski



As most of us get our cars out of hibernation this spring, please be careful on the roads. Just recently I've seen a Queen size mattress just past an acceleration onramp to the freeway. Last summer driving to a Miata picnic I saw two over stuffed living room chairs on the right side of the freeway. PLEASE beware people aren't always securing their loads properly!



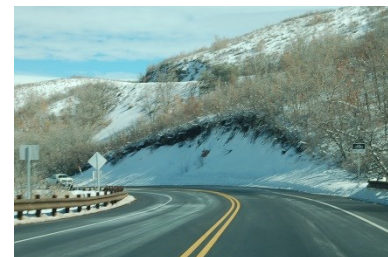
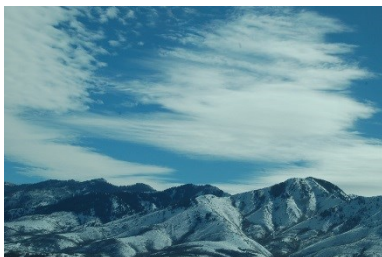


## February Lunch & Meeting Report By: Mike Bailey

February's luncheon and meeting was held in Gordy and Jackie Nicholl's garage, that most would think as being a strange place for a club meeting. But it was February and cold outside, as those who attended the January meeting outside at Mill Hollow Park by Big Cottonwood Canyon can attest to. Those metal benches were very cold! Gordy's garage was quite warm as he has a very large heater that heats it, and he was kind enough go out the evening before to turn on the heater. It was very comfortable for all of us there. We all sat around in a large circle on our camp chairs as we have been accustomed to do since the start of the Coronavirus. Thanks to everyone who showed up at the meeting as it was quite productive, and thanks to Gordy and Jackie for setting it up for us be there.



After the lunch meeting we headed up I-215 to Big Mountain up Parley's Canyon and over past Mountain Dell Reservoir which was frozen over. I've heard it is a good place for ice fishing in the winter, but didn't notice anyone out there. We turned up Emigration Canyon and went over the top. Lots of kids and families were sledding and tubing on top of the hill by the parking lot up there. The skies were blue and the weather was very pleasant for the drive. I'm sorry that everyone's clean Miatas got a little dirty from the roads, but that's to be expected in the winter time. We stopped at the 'Heritage Park at This Is The Place Monument' and walked around the facilities there, and viewed some of the monuments to our Pioneer ancestors. Most went to the nice gift shop there and browsed around and purchased some things as they had a lot to look at.

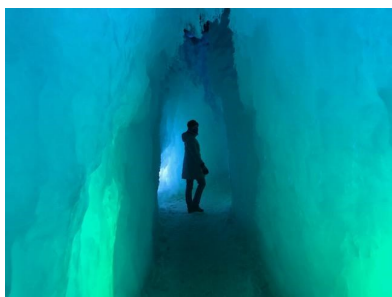


Gordy brought up the idea of the club having several "Destination" meetings spaced out during the year where we go to a certain place and stay there to tour or walk around instead of going on a drive after the luncheon or meeting. Such places would include monuments, scenic points of interest, museums, etc. I will be bringing this up in our next officers and directors meeting as I think this is a good idea. I think coming back to the 'This Is The Place' Monument is a good idea as the grounds have changed a lot since the many years I have been here. This would be an example of the 'Destination' meeting. They have a real nice picnic pavilion and also it would be fun to go through and see all the original Pioneer homes and view the history of them. After all, the admission fee is only \$7.00 per person, so this is a pretty good price to do this. I'd like to challenge the club members to come up with some ideas on places to go visit and see. Thanks to everyone who came on the drive and who participated in this.





## Ice Castles Report By: Mike Bailey



Our Ice Castles event was not attended very well by club members because the event had limitations on how many could attend on each day. As a result tickets sold out very fast. We selected a date of February 28th and I think Hank and Rexanne Pond were the only ones there that evening. Then I had changed it to Feb. 2nd because I could not get tickets for the 28th, but they were also sold out on the 2nd. Seems like RoseAnn Whitaker and her family attended that evening. Anyway, I apologize for the confusion on the dates but it was a very popular event this year and was sold

out on every date. Enjoy these photos that were taken by Hank and Rexanne.



## Vanderhall Roadster Factory Tour By: Mike Bailey



**We have a date for the Vanderhall Roadster Tour set up for Wednesday, March 24th 2021.** Our time to be there for the tour will be at 5:00 pm in Provo. The address is 3500 Mountain Vista Parkway, Provo, Utah 84606. I could not do the Friday date as they did not have any availability. I do have a short list of those who have signed up to go, or emailed me by last month's meeting. We only have a few more members that we can accommodate, so please sign the list at the March meeting or contact me if you would like to go. We will also plan to drive down together; meet at the Harmons Grocery store parking lot (at our usual place on south end of the store). This Harmons is located at 13800 S. & Bangerter Hwy exit off I-15. Turn left (east) off of I-15. We will meet, then leave at 4:15 pm to try and beat any southbound I-15 traffic headed to Provo. Try to not be late as we will leave right at 4:15. If you are in Utah County, you can just meet us at Vanderhall.

Vanderhall is an American vehicle manufacturer based in Provo, Utah. It manufactures hand-made three-wheeled autocycles designed for sports driving, touring, commuting and city driving. They have been in business for 10 years. Vanderhall was established in 2010, and the idea of the vehicles the founders had envisioned took five years to design before ever releasing a prototype to the public. They have several models of this roadster which we will see up close. This tour will be similar to the one we have done twice before in past years at Kirkham's Motor Sports, also located in Provo. We will get an up-close look at the vehicles and how they are made. They have just made a new ATV / All Road 4 wheel, all electric vehicle called the Navarro with 350 hp. This tour should be a lot of fun for us 'car enthusiasts'. This will be a private tour just for our group as they usually do not solicit general group tours. This tour would require us to be somewhat socially distanced, wear our masks, and we must abide by health dept. guidelines. The tour of their production facilities is Free, only if we would be willing to submit a Google review after the tour. I agreed that we would be willing to do this. After the tour please go to their website to leave a review at: Vanderhall Motor Works (vanderhallusa.com).





## Member Spotlight: Rachel Carter

By: Carol Lynn Vredevelde

*I am delighted to feature one of our youngest members, **Rachel Carter** in our spotlight article this month. Although I have not had a chance to visit with her because of COVID restrictions, I am so impressed with her tenacity and her desire to make a good decision on a car purchase at such a young age. She is definitely the UMC clubs youngest Miata owner, and guess who played a part in her decision to join the club and I'm sure her excitement to find the perfect Miata...our awesome President, Mike Bailey! Rachel is someone that knows what is important to her and how to go about making her dreams come true. Can't wait to see what this young lady ends up doing in the future. She is definitely ambitious and will be someone that will leave her mark on this world.*

*Thanks, Rachel, for letting us get to know you a little better through your article below:*

I have a 2007 Mazda MX-5 Miata Grand Touring in Copper Red Mica. It has a soft top with a matching tan interior. I do have personalized plates...My plates say SLOWNC.

I decided to buy my Miata when I was researching what kind of car I wanted to buy and the Miata really stood out to me. It has everything I want in a car-it's affordable, reliable, and naturally a very attractive looking vehicle. I wanted to invest in a first car that would inspire me to maintain and take good care of all my cars in the future. One thing that I think a lot of people do not do when they buy their first car is make a long-term investment in a car that they want to keep and take good care of for the rest of its life; but that is exactly what I intend to do with my Miata. I like to think it's made me a better car owner and a more conscious driver.

When I was looking for a car, I found Mike Bailey's 2002 yellow Miata for sale only a few minutes away from my house. When I went to look at it, he took me on my first ride in a Miata and introduced me to the club. Ever since then, I knew that I would end up buying a Miata, even if it was not his. I have been a member for almost six months.

I was born in Utah, and I grew up in Texas. After eight years, we moved back up to Utah and have been here ever since.

I will be heading off to college in the fall, but not sure where yet. I'm still applying to colleges, but I do know that I will be going to an out of state college and that I will be majoring in political science with a double major in anthropology.

I am currently a barista at Starbucks.

I love to paddleboard, and I have recently picked up snowboarding. I am also an avid reader with a large collection of historical fiction books. I enjoy camping, hiking, and driving with the top down. I have also traveled quite a bit- I have been to England, Mexico, Canada, the Bahamas, and I have a full European tour planned for next year.

Since joining the club, I really enjoyed the Christmas event this year when we watched *War with Grandpa*. I haven't had an opportunity to go on a lot of drives yet, because I joined in September, but I am full of anticipation for our summer drives before I head off to college!

I'm very friendly and I'm always happy to talk. I am also quite handy and enjoy doing mechanical work, so if you have minor jobs you need done that you don't want to take to a shop, reach out to me and I'll be happy to come work on your car.

*Please join me in welcoming Rachel to the Utah Miata Club and lets make this summer something to remember... driving through beautiful country roads while enjoying the best that nature has to offer us all! Oh...don't forget that she not only drives a Miata, but she may be able to help you fix yours if need be!*





## Utah Vanity Plates By: Mike Bailey

Featured this month are Personalized Vanity Plates from Utah Miata Club members. Some of these plates have been transferred to newer Miatas members have purchased. Other plates are from current members who have sold those Miatas and now own new Miatas. The rest of the plates represented here are from older members of the club, who most are still members, or have moved away and we do not see very often. **See if you can guess who these plates belong to? The person who guesses the most correct matches to club members will win a prize at the March luncheon!**



## Draft Design Rocky Mountain Road Trip Shirts

By: Mike Bailey



### Rocky Mountain Road Trip

In Memory of our dear Friend,  
Lou Vredevelde



July 31, 2021 to August 6, 2021  
[www.utahmiataclub.org](http://www.utahmiataclub.org)

I will be making up some shirts as I usually do for the Miata Club road trips that we go on. The Rocky Mountain Road Trip T-Shirts will feature the event logo on both sides. Last month I debuted the new logo idea for this trip, of which the original mountain illustration idea originally was envisioned by our very good friend Lou Vredevelde, so I want to do these shirts in honor of Lou. This image is the back of the shirts and will have a map on it with our route and main overnight stops we will be making. This art still needs a little fine tuning to get it right, so this is just the initial illustration. The top part with mountains and Miata and trip name will, of course, be featured on the front as mentioned last month.

If you are interested in these shirts I am trying to keep the cost at about \$16- \$20. each for the low print run on them. I will also have some sweatshirts custom made if you want one as it can get quite chilly in those high elevations. They will be at my normal sweatshirt pricing of \$30-\$42. depending on shirt style. If interested please sign up on the list I will pass around at the meetings. And, of course, we will do our 5" Event car magnets with the logo on them as well. These are 2 for \$12.00, half the cost of the club magnets.





## Miataland Italy Trip By: Mike Bailey

Our Miataland trip is scheduled from October 5 - Nov. 2, 2021. This includes a 5 day extension tour to some exotic locals in Northern Italy's Riviera. The trip starts with two days in Rome touring the sites and staying at the exclusive Romanico Palace Hotel in the heart of Rome. We then head to Civitavecchia which is where the famous Port is on the Mediterranean Sea. One night's stay here in this scenic city and then we board the Azamara Ocean Cruise for 10 days which circles around the Boot of Southern Italy. We tour such romantic and scenic places as Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast and will get to go to Pompeii to see the ruins from 79 AD. Some in the club visited the Leonardo Museum here in Salt Lake in February of last year for their exhibit prior to this trip, which was scheduled and then cancelled, in September of last year. The ruins were something fantastic to see, so I am looking forward to seeing this in person once again. This was one of our favorite stops on our club cruise we did about 15 years ago to this same location.



We will also visit other port cities like Kotor in Montenegro then ending up in Venice for a couple days. After the cruise we will board a couple of Mini-Buses and head for four days at Miataland where we will drive the owner's Miatas (he has 48 of them) around the quaint little towns, villages, and lakes in the area. This of course is the highlight of the trip, at least for me to drive Miatas in Italy for 4 days. After this we head north to Florence for a couple days and will see many famous sites and museums. Another highlight of mine will be going to Bologna and to Pagani to visit and have a personal Italian Luxury Sports Cars Tour to see Lamborghinis, Ferrari's, and Maserati's. At the end of this day we will take a 40 minute test drive in a Lamborghini on their private racetrack. The extra 5-day extension tour is after this which includes some very exotic places to see and visit.

If you are interested in any part of this trip see Karen Christiansen, our club member and travel agent with Morris Murdock Travel and she can hook you up with all the details. Her number is 801-483-5233. This will be the "Trip of a Lifetime!" and as you all know, we are not getting any younger. The Miata Club has been doing cruises together for 18 years or so and everyone of them have been absolutely delightful. Zoom - Zoom Bon Voyage Mike



## 2021 Calendar of Events

**January Election & Planning Meeting postponed to April, May, or June**

**March 6th:** Monthly lunch & meeting (Legends Sport Pub, details on page 2) Mike Bailey

**March 24th:** Vanderhall Factory Tour (Limited slots, need to reserve with Mike)

**Apr 10th (2nd Saturday due to Easter):** Monthly lunch & meeting (TBD, possible Election/Planning Meeting)

**May 1st:** Monthly lunch & meeting (TBD)

**June 5th, etc:** Monthly lunch & meeting (TBD)

**June, date TBD:** 1 or 2 day Drive to Helper Utah

**July 31st—Aug 6th:** Rocky Mountain Road Trip –Roger Heath (refer to page 7)





# Candid Camera By Mike Bailey

Photos this month are a mix of a couple from this year and others going back several years, and of some of our out of state members whom we have had lots of fun with on our trips and adventures.

  
**SMILE  
YOU'RE  
ON  
CANDID  
CAMERA**

