



## The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



Ice Castles January 2020

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

**Welcome 2021!!!** Hopefully this will be the start of a New Year which we all want to be better than the past year, as far as a lot of things go. Despite Covid-19, I think the club still had lots of fun at the things we did and drives we went on. My highlight of the year was the Torrey/Capitol Reef/Bryce over-night trip! As we jump into the new year, there is 'hope' in a new beginning! New beginnings are good. I personally am hopeful and wishing that 2021 will be a year of recovery from the Coronavirus and that we will all be able to get our lives back to normal, or the 'new normal' as some would say. We want to wish everyone a **Happy New Year** and hopefully all of you had a wonderful Christmas with your family!

So far, the Utah Miata Club only has a few things on our calendar for 2021 temporarily planned out. And we usually have our annual Event & Planning Meeting along with our Club Elections of new officers and directors the third Saturday of January. This event has been postponed until we find out how the new year will pan out as far as our group being able to get together. We are all OK with this. Normally at our event planning meeting we look forward to having a meal together at our Miata dealer sponsor, Bountiful Mazda, hold our elections, and plan our major and monthly events. We will certainly miss doing this in January. For now all the club officers and directors will keep their positions with the club until we can find a date to meet and hold the elections. We also usually like to decide the date that each of our monthly luncheons and meetings will be held, which normally take place the first Saturday of each month (unless there is a holiday right before or after that date). In addition we normally have members of the club volunteer to be in charge of securing our monthly luncheon location and making arrangements for that, as well as planning or coming up with the monthly Miata drive that we all look so forward to.

We will now play it by ear on a monthly basis to see how this will turn out. That does not mean that any members can't start suggesting drives or places for us to visit so we can, as a group, decide to put these on the annual calendar. We especially love new members to suggest places for us to drive to or something we have not thought of doing as a club. Please suggest to any officer or director what you'd like to do, or a place you'd like to go!

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Our **January monthly meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 9th**. If it is a nice day, weather wise, we will meet somewhere and have everyone bring their own lunch like we have done for most of 2020. We will plan to meet at a park or place to eat, and then will go on a short scenic drive in the valley somewhere and look at the snowy mountains or some winter vista. Don't forget to pack your camp chairs for this. The idea is to meet somewhere on the east bench overlooking the Salt Lake Valley to eat and then drive possibly along Wasatch Blvd from an area close to Big Cottonwood Canyon along the east side and the Wasatch Mountains. More detailed information is below. We also want to shout out to all the new members the club has, and welcome you to our club! I am hoping that we will all be able to get vaccinations when they become available to us and hopefully 2021 will be a better year for all of us.

**Happy New Year! Zoom - Zoom.....Mike**



## January 9th “Tentative Weather Permitting” Meeting & Drive


**Date & Time:** Saturday, January 9th, 11:30 AM

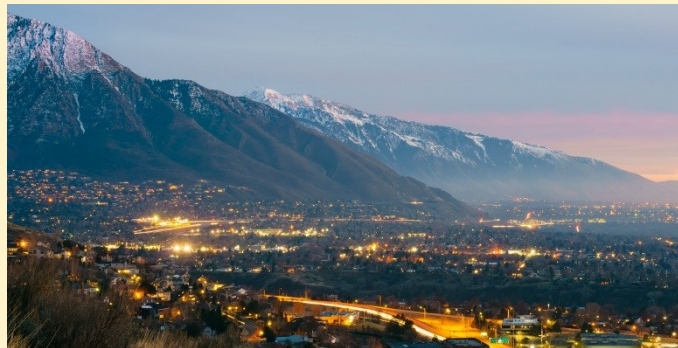
**Location:** TBD

**Address:** TBD

### Information:

If the weather is decent and the roads are dry we will meet at the Smith's Food King Parking lot in Cottonwood Heights or somewhere similar. After the meeting and “bring your own lunch” we can drive along Wasatch Blvd from about where Big Cottonwood Canyon is, along the east bench to Draper and maybe up Suncrest where can end the drive or go over the top to Alpine.

There will be an email sent and a Facebook post a couple of days before January 9th confirming if we will be meeting (weather looks good) or cancelling (weather not cooperating). Meeting location address will be provided at that time. Let's enjoy our beautiful snow covered mountains! 



## Club Officers

President: Mike Bailey

Vice President: Hank Pond

Secretary: Jim Newson

Board Members: Valerie Francis, Brian Christiansen, Ken Jaworski

Treasurer: Margie Newson

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



# Birthdays & Memberships

## NEW MEMBERS

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
CALEB MASON	2020	WHITE CLUB
LINDA & JERRY GROSS	2017 RF	RED

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

NAME	EXPIRING
ERIC ACHTER	1/31/2021
GARY & KATHY COLLINGS	1/31/2021
VALERIE FRANCIS	1/31/2021
KEN & JAN JAWORSKI	1/31/2021
ERIC & KATHY KANKAINEN	1/31/2021
MICHAEL & MICHELE RIDING	1/31/2021
DOYLE STURM	1/31/2021
MARK & SUSAN VAUGHN	1/31/2021

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

NAME	EXPIRED
LYNNE AOYAMA	10/31/2020
MARK CRABBE	10/31/2020
JOANN JACOBSON-WELLS	12/31/2020
JOE LEVERICH	12/31/2020
DARWIN & LORI STEED	12/31/2020
SCHUYLER WHITE	10/31/2020

## REMOVED FROM ROSTER

NAME	EXPIRED
ROBERT & CHRISTINE MACKERELL	8/31/2020



NAME	BIRTHDAY
JOSH ASHMENT	3 Jan
TYLER BECKSTEAD	4 Jan
PAUL KLOER	12 Jan
PAMALA WHARRAM	16 Jan
RON CHRISTENSEN	17 Jan
RACHEL CARTER	22 Jan
ALLISON HUNTZINGER	23 Jan
TYSON YOUNG	23 Jan
MICHAEL STEPHENSON	26 Jan
MOLLY KING	27 Jan
MARSHALL DING	28 Jan
ROGER HEATH	28 Jan
JACKIE NICHOLL	30 Jan

## Vanity Plates By: Valerie Francis



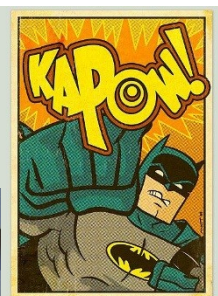
This month's personalized plates belong to yours truly and hubby Doyle Sturm. "ZOOMBIE" is on my 2012 Special Edition. Doyle came up with the name, and I just say "my car is like a Zombie but way faster". The plate holder "The Evil Twin" is because Steve and Ronda Beckstead bought the exact same car basically the same day we bought ours, so I anointed mine "the evil twin".



Doyle's personalized plate "KAZOOM" is on his 2004 NB. This is based on the vernacular used in cartoons, like "KaPow" and "KaBoom". So for us KAZOOM means "extra strong Zooming".



We can't wait for spring weather to go Zoom Zooming with our Miata friends again!



## Ice Castles Event By: Mike Bailey

We have a tentative Winter event planned to visit the **Ice Castles in Midway, Utah** at the end of January. We are thinking of doing this on a **Thursday evening, either January 21st or the following week on January 28th. We plan to reserve a time of 7:00 pm.** The reason we are planning a Thursday evening is because it is less money to attend on a Monday-Thursday at \$13.99 per adult ticket. Weekends are \$19.99 Friday-Sunday. Child admission is \$9.99 on ages 4-11. Weekends \$12.99 each. It will also be less crowded on a weekday verses the weekend. We will also post this on our club Facebook page. Please comment on the Facebook page as to whom is interested in doing this and your preference on which date, and we will most likely select which date it is, based on the majority.

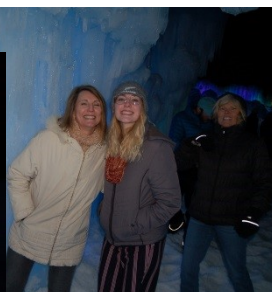
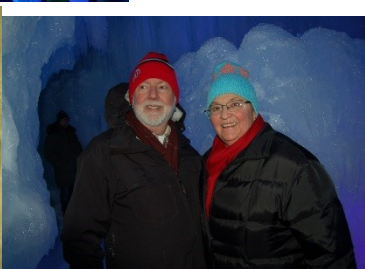


As with past years' experience, the opening and closing dates and how long they decide to operate in Utah for the Ice Castles depends on the weather. On a few consecutive years that we planned to go, it was cancelled because of warm weather. We will know more information probably the first week of January. As of writing this article they have not begun selling tickets. Each person or couple will be responsible to purchase their own tickets. Information about Ice Castles can be found on their website: <https://icecastles.com/utah>. When we decide on the evening and time frame we will let members know via an Email Blast and also confirm date and time on our Facebook page, as well as the club website.

Unlike last year we will not gather for a dinner in Midway before the event because of social distancing requirements inside of restaurants. So, eat dinner before you come unless you want to eat somewhere in Midway or Heber City after the event. Instead we will meet in the parking lot at the Homestead Resort about 15 minutes prior to our

scheduled time to enter. If you are late in getting there, no worry as you can hook up with members inside the event. Ice Castles has time slots to enter with groups, similar to what we did for the Christmas in Color light show we did last month. Please dress appropriately for the cold weather as it can get very cold in Midway. This will be a very fun event and we look forward to this being our major January activity.

I am currently working on getting us a group discount of about 15% off the admission fee as a non-profit club. This discount will also depend on how many from our group will attend. I won't know this until after the ticket sales start and I consult with Ice Castles management. I hope to see a lot of members come out. For those who went last year or who have been before, this event is lots of fun. You are welcome to bring any kids or grandkids to this with you if you like.





## December Holiday Movie Report By: Mike Bailey



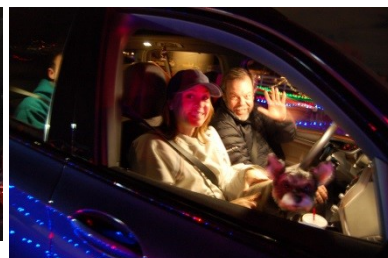
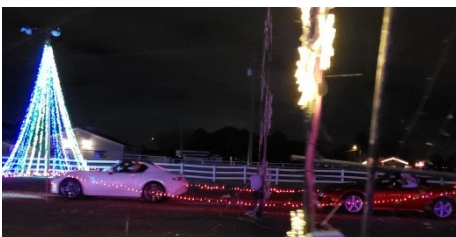
Our Club Holiday Movie was a huge success with 47 club members attending this at the South Jordan Megaplex Theater. Since the theater was under state Covid-19 requirements which limit its capacity to 50% of available seats, we could only accommodate this many people. The movie we saw was "War With Grandpa" a very fun comedy which we all got lots of laughs from. We each received a box of popcorn, a soft drink, and a candy item with our admission ticket. This movie was in lieu of our annual Christmas Holiday party that the club usually has each December. It was not quite the same this year as when meeting in a member's home and having a complete dinner with all the trimmings, many fabulous side dishes, desserts, and holiday treats brought or made by club members. We also missed our annual 'White Elephant' gift exchange that many members look forward to each year. Hopefully conditions will change this next year so that we may go back to our annual tradition of having the holiday party. Lynn and I enjoyed hosting this party for 12 consecutive years from 2005-2016 at our previous home in Cottonwood Heights. We shared many years of memories from and with our most favorite people, the members of the Utah Miata Club. We also appreciated Jim and Marilyn Bickley sharing their home with the club for the last in-home party last year in 2019.

At the movie this year we had both luxury seats as well as general seats and was able to follow social distance rules and wear our masks when not eating. It was a good time to get together and enjoy each other's company. We also was able to have a short club meeting and have a couple of ticket drawings for the monthly gifts. Much thanks goes to Margie for authorizing the club to do this party with club funds to pay for the tickets and food items. We also enjoyed the tradition of the club hosting and paying for the annual Summer Picnic in the Park with the South of the Border Taco Truck. The club certainly gives back to the members. Jim and Margie Newson have taken on the role of Secretary and Treasurer of the club for many years so we want to thank them for keeping the club financially sound.



## Christmas In Color Report By: Mike Bailey

We had another great time this year at the Christmas in Color light show in South Jordan. This year was our largest attendance of club members than from previous years we have been doing this event. Quite a few Miatas showed up, with others in OTM's, specifically SUV's with children and grandchildren. Since the admission fee is per car, it makes sense to fill up your vehicle with family members to attend. I think most Miatas had their top down and of course Amy Beckstead brought her adorable dogs, which I think they thoroughly enjoyed the lights!



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The weather was mild, but cold this year rather than snowy as it usually is. This year we did not meet for dinner before going to the light show because of the Coronavirus. Instead we met at an LDS church building close to the event and then drove over together for our 7:00 pm time slot. The event was sold out this year for all their shows. Just an indication that people are tired of being cooped up in their homes and want to get out to do something fun. We certainly had lots of fun driving through the lights. Thanks to everyone who came to enjoy this as a group. Thanks goes to Susan Vaughn who set this up for the club. Please enjoy the photos of this event.



## Reminder: Member Spotlight Volunteers Needed

By: Carol Lynn Vredevel

**Please let me know if you would like to be featured in a Member Spotlight Article.**

As the Spotlight editor for the last 8 years, **I would like to invite you to participate** in our quest to get to know each and every one of our members and what made them want their Miata's. I have found that all of our members have one thing in common.... they love to drive the countryside top down enjoying the beautiful scenery up close and personal. The spotlight articles are a great way to get a little insight in to the lives of our fellow club members that just might become our traveling partners and closest friends in the future.

### Participating couldn't be easier...

- Simply fill out a questionnaire designed to tell your story in as little or as much detail as you would like ....in your own words.
- I will email you the questionnaire to be filled out and returned at your convenience...by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. In addition, we would like to get 4 or 5 photos to compliment your article.

I would love to hear from you at: [Carolynn1@msn.com](mailto:Carolynn1@msn.com) / Text or call my cell: 801 647 0486

I will also have questionnaires available at the monthly meetings for your convenience. Both new and long time members are welcome to volunteer. Looking forward to hearing from you soon! *Thanks, Carol Lynn*



## Future of Miata By: Mike Bailey

The Fourth Generation Miata (ND version) has now been around 6 years with the 2021 model soon coming out. Who knows when Mazda will decide to put out a fifth generation? The NA generation produced was made for 8 years, NB for 7 years, NC for 10 years, and ND for 6 years now. There is new color for the 2021 model, called Deep Crystal Blue with a new interior color of White Nappa Leather. This white is similar to the 2015 25th Anniversary Edition. This is only available on the GT or Grand Touring model, according to my search information on Mazda's website. The Snowflake White exterior color, will also be available in the 2021 model. This is the same white exterior color featured on the new MX-5 Miata celebrating the 100th Mazda Anniversary, that came out a couple months ago. This color option is going up in price a few hundred dollars more on the 2021 model than it was in 2020. MSRP pricing for the 2021 Miata ranges from \$26,850 to \$32,295 with special edition models a little higher. Mazda will feature most of the colors that were available in 2020, but not any other new exterior colors other than the Deep Crystal Blue. The 2021 Miata has a 2.0 liter, 181 HP at 7,000 RPM's in-line 4 cylinder engine. Three model options will be the same as in previous ND models; Sport, Club, and Grand Touring (GT model) and price range will be according to the model purchased.



Mazda has put out a few Concept Versions with possible future changes, with a couple photos featured here. Many new concept versions are featured in various automobile magazines such as Car & Driver, and Motor Trend, as they always are. It is hard to predict what Mazda will do with making future changes to the Miata. Also Mazda does not seem to reply or comment on customer's questions as to when they will produce other popular colors like British Racing Green (BRG) as they featured in 1991 and 2001, or a Yellow exterior again (1992 Sunburst, 2002 Blazing Yellow, or 2009 Competition Yellow), or other distinct special colors. Reviews seem to constantly state that Miata people are tired of the same old whites or blacks, grays and silver versions. Who knows what Mazda will do for the future!



## 2021 Calendar of Events



**January 9th:** TBD, weather permitting (refer to page 2)

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

**February 6th:** TBD

**March 6th:** TBD

**Apr 3rd, May 1st, June 5th, etc:** TBD at postponed Election & Planning Meeting

**July 31st—Aug 6th:** Rocky Mountain Road Trip





# Candid Camera By Mike Bailey

Photos this month are of Utah members from 2020 events, and other photos are of some of our beloved out of state members.

  
**SMILE  
YOU'RE  
ON  
CANDID  
CAMERA**

