



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club

New Executive Committee



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From the Top Down By: Roger Heath, President

To be honest I never thought I'd be the person writing an article under the heading "From the Top Down". I still wonder at those that raised their hand for me- What is wrong with you people? I will admit there is some anxiety going forward as I have some big shoes to fill from the previous presidents. But I am very happy Val was voted as my sidekick as I'm sure I'll be relying on her experience to help me as I go forward. Seriously though, I appreciate your confidence and it's time to get going, or, as they say, Let's get ZOOMING.

Most of us have joined the Utah Miata Club for various reasons, to connect with other like minded owners, to make new friends, to travel as a group around our state and nearby states. For me, my interest started well before I bought my first and only Miata in 2017. My family and I were down at Bryce Canyon and I saw a group of 3 Miatas traveling together and I thought how cool would that be. Well several years later my wife, Perly, and I bought our first Miata and searched for a club. We joined shortly after but like many who join, find it's not easy staying involved due to family, work and other commitments. We watched as the club went on multi-day drives and wishing I could go. I'm still jealous they went to the Black Hills and I had to stay home. So after the first year we "sort of" dropped out and figured once our boys are gone we would rejoin. Well that lasted all of 7 months or so before Perly and I decided to come back. We realized then we would do what we could, when we could. We missed being part of the group and the group drives. Then when COVID hit Perly and I became more involved as the monthly drives became sort of an escape from the COVID "lockdown".

My passion, if you will, are the overnights. Perly and I did our first club overnighter last September with the Bryce Canyon/Torrey trip. That was all it took to get us hooked. By the time this newsletter comes out 27 (14 Miatas) of us will be heading out for 7 nights traveling through the Rockies, hitting 3 national parks, several scenic by-ways, and who knows what else. This trip started with an article about the Beartooth Highway posted on the club's Facebook page last year and took off from there. What started as a short 3 night trip evolved into 6 nights and finally 7 nights.

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The rest of 2021 and first half of 2022 are looking pretty positive. People have stepped up and volunteered to lead the group drives, there's the Italy cruise later this year, and Steve and Ronda Beckstead are heading up a weekend at the Sun Valley Jazz and Music Festival in October. Next year several ideas for overnights were presented - Canyon de Chelly and New Mexico in April, North Rim of the Grand Canyon in June, southern Oregon, northern California coast in July/August.

So my challenge to those in the club, if you want to do it, speak up. If it's just an impromptu drive like we had over Memorial Day, the drive to see the murals in Tremonton, or Amy's Squaw Peak Overlook drive this past summer, put the word out and people will come. If you want to do a simple overnights like we did to Helper and Price, speak up and present the idea. If you want to do a major trip like the Rocky Mountain Road Trip, present your idea. If you don't want to lead or don't know how to plan there's plenty of people with experience that are more than happy to help out. Who knows, your trip may just be the one that is talked about for years to come.

Well it's time for me to shut up. Let's go ZOOMING -



Grand Canyon Tour June 24th – 29th, 2022 By: Roger Heath



This will be a two part trip split into three days each. You can do only one part or combine them into a single long tour. Part 1 visits the north rim of the Grand Canyon while part 2 spends time on the south rim.

Part 1 (June 24th – 26th) - On Friday we leave Draper and pick up highway 89 in Spanish Fork Canyon. Then it's straight to Kanab for two nights. On Saturday, June 25th, we head to the north rim where you can hike, spend time gazing over the canyon, driving to other viewpoints or all three. If time permits we will leave the canyon and drive along the Vermilion Cliffs to the historic Navajo Bridge and hopefully catch sight of the California Condors.

For lodging in Kanab I suggest either the Best Western Red Hills or Comfort Suites Kanab National Park Area in Kanab. Both are right across the street from each other. Sunday, June 26th, for those only doing part 1 of the tour it is your time to head home. There is no designated route home as there are multiple ways you can go depending if you want scenic or the quickest way home.

Part 2 (June 26th – 29th) – After we say goodbye to those going home we will begin part 2 and head south out of Kanab towards the north rim again. Rather than going to the north rim we will continue on highway 89A, past the Vermilion Cliffs on our way to the south rim and Grand Canyon Village. There are four lodges on the rim and one within a short walk. Yavapai Lodge is another option but it is located well off the rim near the general store. We spend two nights, June 26th and 27th, in Grand Canyon Village.

Tuesday, June 28th, we begin our trip home. Once again, there is no designated route home. If you like a long drive you could head straight home on the 28th or spend another night somewhere in between.

Due to the location of the south rim, lodging goes quick as lodging outside the park is not very convenient. It is highly recommended to make reservations as soon as possible if you plan to go or are just a maybe. For the 5 lodges on the rim reservations can be made at grandcanyonlodges.com or by calling 888-297-2757. There does seem to be an issue with the website. When you enter the dates and click on Check Availability the next page shows all lodges sold out. However if you click on the View Calendar link for the lodge you want and scroll to June 2022 you will see the dates with vacancies and types of rooms available. You will be charged the first night's rate as a deposit but it is fully refundable if you cancel at least 48 hours in advance. Currently Bright Angel Lodge is your best value.

If you prefer to stay at Yavapai lodge you can book at www.visitgrandcanyon.com or by calling 877-404-4611. You will be charged the first night's rate as a deposit but it is fully refundable if you cancel at least 48 hours in advance.



August Meeting and Drive - Helper Arts Festival Car Show, Music, Art, Food

Date & Time: Saturday, August 21st, 10:00 AM

(3rd weekend, early start)

Location: Heber City Main Street Park

Address: 250 South Main (Access from 200 South for parking)



Information:

We will hold the monthly meeting at 10:00 am at the Main Street Park in Heber City so bring your camp chairs or blanket to sit on as we are not reserving a pavilion. Feel free to drive the canyon of your choice to get to Heber (Guardsman, Parley's, Provo, Weber).



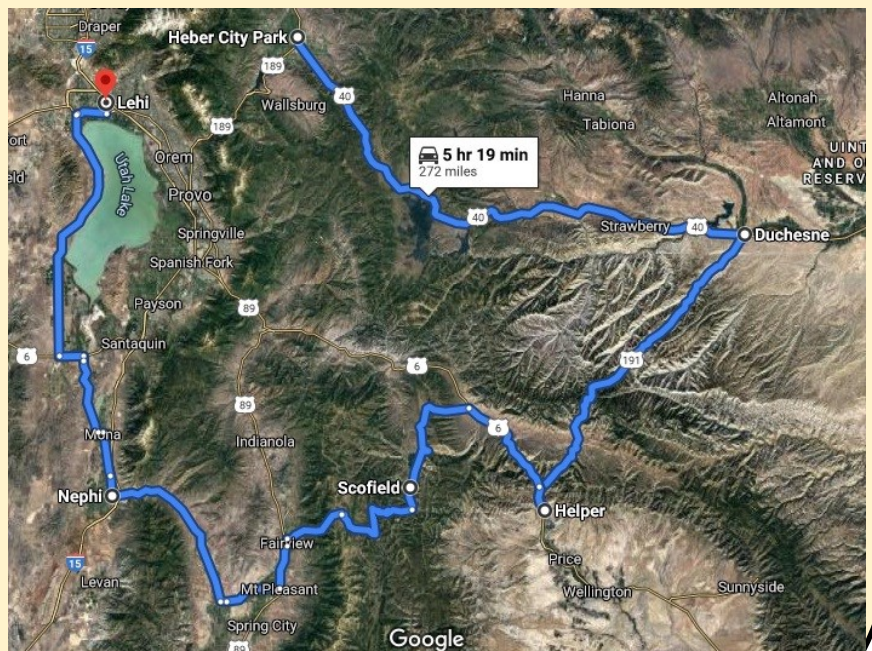
We had such a great time in June visiting Helper that we decided a repeat for their Arts Festival was in store. After the meeting, we will head to the Helper Arts Festival via Hwy 40 to Duchesne (with a break at the Duchesne City Park) then down Hwy 191 into Helper. Once in Helper, everyone can stay as long or as little as they want. You can even stay overnight and drive home Sunday.

The drive leaders (Bret and Roxanne Bagley) will be heading home tentatively at 5:00 PM via Hwy 6 to the Scofield turnoff. Then past Scofield Reservoir, Fairview, Nephi, Mona, and past the west side of Utah Lake where the drive officially ends. The meet-up location for the drive home will be announced when we arrive in Helper, if not sooner.

If staying overnight or leaving early, there are several routes home that you can take depending on your time and/or adventure desires, including: Hwy 6 to Spanish Fork, or past Schofield to Hwy 89 then Spanish Fork, or retrace back to Duchesne then Hwy 40 or over Wolf Creek Pass, or the route described below.

On the June trip, club members stayed at the Greenwell Inn in Price, but there are several hotels choices in Price. Greenwell information: 435-637-3520, 655 E Main St, Price.

We hope you can join us for part or all of this fun adventure!



Birthdays / Memberships

New Members

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
NONE		

Removed From Roster

NAME	DATE
SONNY & CORALEE JCKOWSKI	4/30/2021

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

NAME	EXPIRED
BRET & ROXANNE BAGLEY	7/31/2021
DAVID CHRISTENSEN	6/30/2021
RON CHRISTENSEN	6/30/2021
DONN & JANET CICHOCKI	7/31/2021
DAVID & BRENDA ENCHEFF	5/31/2021
BRIAN & SHARLENE EVANS	7/31/2021
MICHAEL & DEBORAH FOSTER	6/30/2021
BOB & ANNETTE GARNER	7/31/2021
ADAM GERGETZ	6/30/2021
AITANA GONZALEZ	6/30/2021
RICHARD & GAIL KELLY	7/31/2021
SEREI PANH	7/31/2021
DAVID & ROANN RODEBACK	6/30/2021
MICHAEL STEPHENSON	6/30/2021
GREG & ANGIE WHITE	6/30/2021
JEFF & ANDIE WIGHT	5/31/2021

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

NAME	EXPIRING
STEVE & RONDA BECKSTEAD	8/31/2021
KAREN & DALIN CHRISTIANSEN	8/31/2021
BRIAN & SUSAN CHRISTIANSEN	8/31/2021
RICHARD & JUDY DYSON	8/31/2021
JONATHON & ALLISON HUNTSINGER	8/31/2021
CAROL LYNN VREDEVELD	8/31/2021
TYSON & TRACY YOUNGE	8/31/2021



NAME	BIRTHDAY
KEN JAWORSKI	1 Aug
DEBORAH FOSTER	7 Aug
DALIN CHRISTIANSEN	8 Aug
TRACY WOODWORTH	9 Aug
KATHY COLLINGS	12 Aug
LINDA LEWIS	12 Aug
ANDIE WIGHT	18 Aug
CAROL LYNN VREDEVELD	24 Aug
STEVE NIELSEN	26 Aug
AMY BECKSTEAD	27 Aug
ROBERT HODGSON	29 Aug

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. 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.treasurmc@icloud.com.

Club Officers

President: Roger Heath
Treasurer: Margie Newson

Vice President: Valerie Francis
Directors: Hank Pond, Steve Beckstead, Robert Mechling

Secretary: Jim Newson

July Picnic, Elections & Meeting Report By: Valerie Francis



The annual picnic is always an enjoyable event even in 100 degree weather. Thankfully Hank secured a covered private pavilion so we could enjoy visiting with our wonderful Miata friends, and enjoy the delicious food. Thanks too for the club covering the food costs, and to Steve for securing the food truck. Also special thanks to those that brought yummy desserts and fruit, and also to Robert and Sharon for their cooling misting fan (I know I walked by it several times -especially on my way to said dessert table!)



After lunch, Hank conducted the business meeting, including voting on the proposed Bylaw changes (accepted), the elections, and planning the next twelve months.

The new Executive Committee voted in are: Roger Heath as **President**, Val Francis as **Vice President**, Hank Pond, Steve Beckstead, and Robert Mechling as **Directors**, Margie Newson as **Treasurer**, and Jim Newson as **Secretary**. Additionally, all appointed positions remain the same. Doyle-**Webmaster**, Val-**Newsletter Editor**, Gordy-**Parliamentarian**, Sharon-**Scribe**, Ronda & Amy-**Birthday Coordinators**, Steve-**Email Communications**, Carol Lynn-**Member Spotlight Coordinator**. Hope I didn't miss anyone. Congratulations to this group! And thanks to the outgoing Executive Committee members for their service and support through 2019 and half of 2020!



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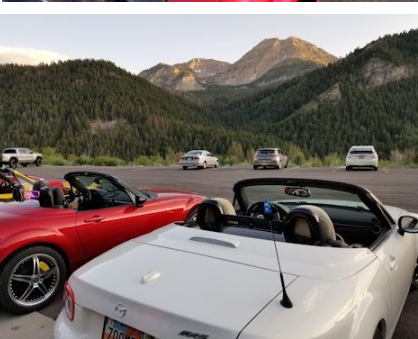
Then on to the planning: Dates were determined for the monthly meetings/drives and lots of great ideas were discussed. The club really appreciates all who volunteered to plan a monthly drive or other event. There are still opportunities to volunteer to lead a drive or even just ideas of where to go or what to see and do. **Refer to the Calendar of Events page in this newsletter for all the exciting upcoming plans.**



Impromptu Squaw Peak Drive Report By: Valerie Francis

On Wednesday evening, July 7th, we meet up to take a fun evening drive. We started by going up over Traverse Ridge then through Alpine and Orem, taking street roads all the way. At Provo Canyon we went up a fun twisty road to the Squaw Peak Overlook that looks over Utah Lake. After enjoying the view of Utah County valley and the lake we then cruised to Bridal Veil Falls, and back home through Alpine Loop.

It was super special that Lynn Bailey was able to join us too. What an enjoyable way to spend the evening. Thanks Amy Beckstead for planning this beautiful drive!

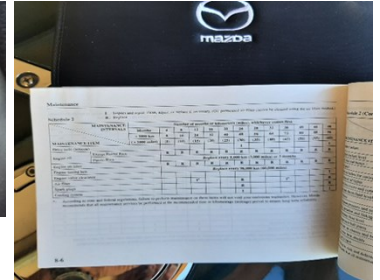


Miata Tales By: Ken Jaworski

Well, last year I wrote an article on "WAKING SLEEPING BEAUTY". YGROWUP has been awake now for several months, but she needs to get ready for the trip to Glacier NP. That means a trip to the tire shop for rotation of her tires and some preparing under the bonnet. If you guessed oil change you right on top of it.

Now I do my own oil changes because I seem to have a complete fleet of vehicles (like some of you). Let me walk you through what I do.

First and foremostalways check your owner's manual. There's exciting knowledge to be gained in all of its pages. Trying to keep the pix relatively small so Val doesn't get too excited. With your reading glasses on now you can see that YGROWUP (142,371 miles) has far exceeded the required mileage chart, but she still needs to be cared for.



So, gather up your tools and let's get started. Obviously, you need a new filter, fresh oil, a drain pan, some sockets, a filter wrench and some or many rags. Warm up your engine to operating temperature. Now I personally (because of my rounded personality) have to jack up the front-end to reach the oil drain plug. I really like these drive-on ramps for giving my belly a place to move. Make sure you set the emergency brake and place wheel chocks behind your tires. I also like to use blue nitrile gloves to protect me from dirty oil carcinogens. It's a good idea to wear old clothing that you're not going to get screamed at if you get dirty. Place the drain pan under the oil drain plug and remove the plug. It should not be too tight (~20/25 #ft torque). Let the dirty oil drain out. Next is to remove the oil filter. This can be messy or easy job depending on where your filter is located. Most NB's have a flat spot on the front wheel well that is ideal for a remote oil filter. SIDE NOTE.....don't and I mean DON'T buy the remote oil filter for your wife's car for a Christmas present.



This is what it looks like, obviously without the filter on it. I usually take a center punch and put a hole in the top of the filter to provide drainage into the engine block and out the oil drain port. The hole relieves the vacuum of the filter to maintain and hold oil and if you don't punch a hole, you will have need for a lot of rags. WOW! We are almost done. Oil the seal of the new filter before placing on the remote or engine block location. When the seal touches add approximately ¾ tightening turn to prevent leakage. Replace oil plug into the engine again just tighten to prevent leakage (~20/25 #ft torque). Are we not done yet.....NO we need to put in the new oil. I have converted my fleet of vehicles to synthetic oil. Not really an option back in 2001, but it is now. Remember the engine only holds 4Qts and if you bought the large container of oil it holds 5Qts, so don't over fill your crankcase. With the oil in the engine, start and run the engine for several minutes making sure that the oil pressure rises and there are no leaks on the ground.

Are we done yet.....NO because the dirty oil must be recycled. Dump the dirty oil into a container to be disposed of, put the dirty oil filter with a hole punched in the top to drain into your disposal for a minimum of 48 hours. Most automotive retailers and some repair/tire shops will recycle your used dirty oil for no charge.

Well, the transfusion is complete, but since you've got the bonnet open check the following items: radiator for any damage, antifreeze coolant level, brake fluid level, windshield fluid level, and check your air filter, too. Replace, refill, and clean as appropriate.



I hope this inspires everyone to at least check your dipstick to make sure you have enough oil in your crankcase to always enjoy..... ZOOM..... ZOOM..... ZOOMIES



Remember to check your tire pressure because AIR is what you are really driving on.

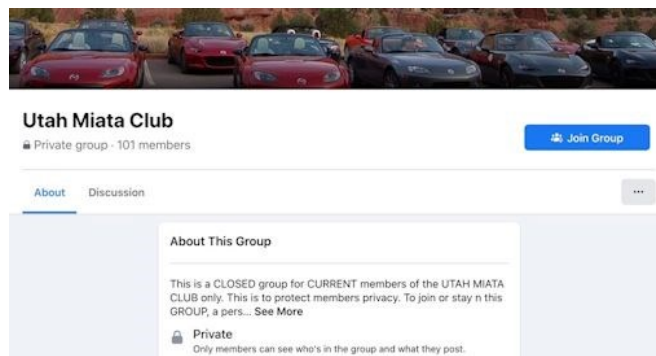


Utah Miata Club Facebook Page By: Valerie Francis

If you are new to the club or even a long time member, and are not a member of the club's Facebook page, we strongly encourage to join. It is a "Private" Facebook page and only current club members can post and/or see the posts.

It is the fastest and easiest way to get information out to members especially in-between when the monthly newsletter is published. We also use it to share stories, awesome photos and videos of drives and other events. They all won't fit in the newsletter! You don't actually ever need to post anything, just use it to read news and updates.

In Facebook, just search for Utah Miata Club and click on the blue "Join Group" button. Once your membership has been confirmed an Admin will accept your request to join.



Personalized Plate of the Month

Amy Beckstead just got her own personalized plates. Looks like she is ready to be **"Out a Here"** on amazing top down adventures in her cute NC. I love how Amy drives top down on almost every drive - no matter if the temperature is hot or cold! I am with you Amy, let's get "out of here" on some fun drives!



Bonus Photos from East Coast Miata Cousin

It has been so hot and dry in Utah, I thought you would enjoy a few amazing "cool" weather photos from Utah Miata members George and Patty, who we refer to as our "East Coast Cousins". These photos are from the New Hampshire area. Enjoy!

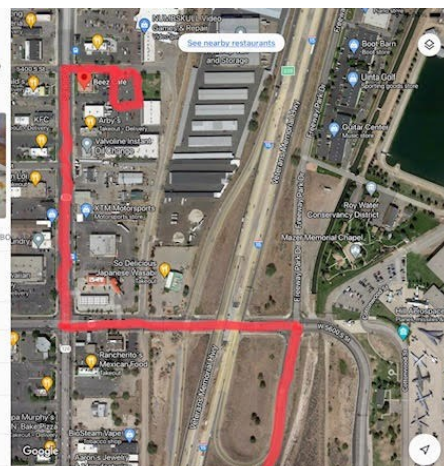
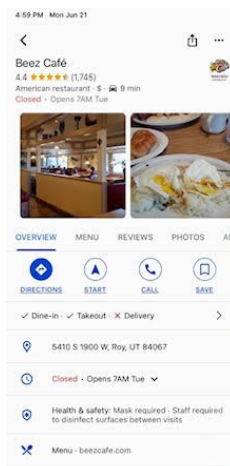


Final UPDATE: Rocky Mountain Road Trip (RMRT) By: Roger Heath

New meet time for day one of the trip, Roy to Jackson: Instead of meeting at 8 AM and leaving at 8:30 AM we will now meet and leave an hour later, 9 & 9:30 AM. This will be better for those of you that require 45 minutes to an hour to get to Roy. Leaving an hour later will also put us into Jackson about the time we can check in to our hotels.

Available restrooms and coffee/food near the meeting location behind Beez Café include; Harmons Grocery is only a couple minutes walk, Burger King and McDonalds are on the corner, and as you exit I-15 in Roy and turn left onto 5600 South there is a Common Cents convenience store/gas station on your right just after you pass under I-15. If you need Starbucks the closest one is about 5 minutes away on Riverdale Road.

We will keep an eye out for fires in the region and may have to be flexible with routes but hopefully everything will go as planned. This is going to be an awesome adventure!



Reminder: Dixieland Jazz Festival at Sun Valley in October By: Steve Beckstead

Come join us at the Sun Valley Jazz festival in October. I want to get this out quick, because the rooms for these things may sell out. The event happens October 14-17th up in Sun Valley, Idaho. Many club members have been to these music fests and it is the most fun ever, full of Dixieland fun, Zydeco, boogie woogie, and lots of bands. It's a very relaxed atmosphere. This one is packed with many great bands. Ronda and I have been to lots of these around the West and it's one of our favorite things to do. Here is the link to the site:

<http://www.sunvalleyjazz.com/>

We have our rooms at the Best Western Tyrolean Hotel in Ketchum for 3 nights, October 14, 15, and 16th. It's about \$200 per night after taxes, but a nice place and I think there is an event shuttle. Also breakfast, of course. Rooms may go fast so suggest at least reserving as soon as possible. Also passes for the whole event are \$200 each, are available now until June 30th at the early bird rate. Link is on website. The Best western is on Cottonwood Street and the direct phone number is 208-726-5336. Of course Bestwestern.com also works.

Going so far, Becksteads, Spence and Teri, Carol Lynn, and Newsons. We are thinking this could be a Miata event to drive to, but as it is October in Idaho, it is very possible we'll be taking AWD sedans or SUVs. Also the route is mostly freeway. It's about a 4.5 hour drive each way. Each person can decide. Let's do music and fun!



Early Bird Pricing Ends Soon!

October 13-17, 2021
Sun Valley, Idaho

Total Sales Limited to 1,500 Five-Day General Admission Passes. Don't miss out, get yours today!

Early Bird Special General Admission Pass
Pricing Ends **June 30, 2021!**



Hotel Rooms
Best Western Tyrolean Lodge
Ketchum, Idaho, United States

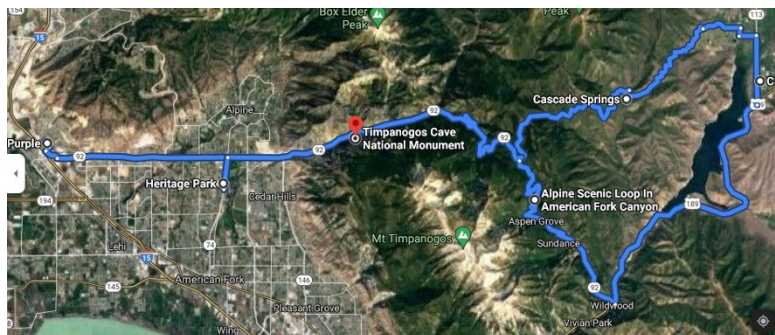


[View Hotel Details](#)
CHECK-IN: 4:00 P.M. MST Check-Out: 11:00 A.M. MST
260 Cottonwood Street Ketchum, Idaho 83340 United States
Toll Free Central Reservations (US & Canada Only) (800) 780-7234
Hotel Direct Number (208) 726-5336
[Worldwide Numbers](#)



Tickler for October Meeting & Drive (Alpine Loop) By: Roxanne Bagley

Lunch meeting at Heritage Park in Highland. Then we head up American Fork Canyon to Cascade Springs, over into Midway, down Provo Canyon to Sundance, Alpine Loop, and then back through the American Fork Canyon into Lehi. May include Cars and Coffee at Traverse Mountain Outlets first if anyone wants to do that before Lunch and the Drive. We would meet at 9am in the Purple Mattress parking lot and then explore the car show before meeting at Heritage Park for lunch. More details coming in the next newsletters.



2021 Calendar of Events

July 31st—Aug 6th: Rocky Mountain Road Trip, Refer to page 9, Roger Heath

August 21st: 3rd weekend due to conflict with RMRT and Helper Arts Festival date, monthly meeting, Refer to page 3, Roxanne & Bret Bagley

September 11th: 2nd weekend due to Labor Day, Monthly lunch and meeting (TBD) Hank Pond

October 2nd: Monthly lunch and meeting (Alpine Loop), Refer to page 10, Roxanne & Bret Bagley

October 13th—17th: Sun Valley Jazz Festival, Refer to page 9, Steve & Ronda Beckstead

November 6th: Monthly lunch and meeting (TBD), Susan and Mark Vaughn

December 4th: Holiday Party (Lone Peak Park party room, time TBD)

2022 Calendar of Events

January 8th: Monthly lunch and meeting (TBD—possible movie)

February 5th: Monthly lunch and meeting (TBD—possible stain glass art studio) Karen Christiansen

March 5th: Monthly lunch and meeting (TBD) Sue and Brian Christiansen

April 2nd: Monthly lunch and meeting (TBD) Mark and Susan Vaughn

April 18—22nd: Tentative Canyon de Chelly / New Mexico Adventure, Mark and Susan Vaughn

May 7th: Monthly lunch and meeting (TBD) Jan and Ken Jaworski

June 4th: Monthly lunch and meeting (TBD), Steve and Ronda Beckstead

June 24– 26: Kanab / North Rim of the Grand Canyon / Optional South Rim, Roger Heath

July 7-10th: Tentative Explore Oregon Adventure, refer to link on UMC webpage

July 16th: Summer picnic, Elections & Planning Meeting



Just a few of the 56 members that were in attendance at the July Picnic...

