



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



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From the Top Down “Oh, the Places We’ll Go!” By: Valerie Francis, President

It is nearly time to say goodbye to 2019... and hello to 2020! But first we need to top off 2019 with our annual Christmas Holiday party. The party does not include a drive, but it does include great friends, delicious food, and lots of laughs. Refer to all the details on page 2.

Even though there is no scheduled drive in December, we can still appreciate the uniqueness of our cars. So here are a few fun facts about our favorite rides:

- The Miata is the best-selling 2 seat sports car of all time, winning a place in the Guinness Book of World Records in 2000 (531,890 units), and reached 1 million units sold worldwide in April, 2016.
- Mazda uses a design philosophy named Jinba Ittai for the MX-5, which loosely translates to "Rider and horse as one".
- The name 'MX-5' was contrived from 'Mazda Experiment' and being project number 5.
- In the Disney/Pixar film Cars, characters 'Mia' and 'Tia' are both based off of the MX-5. If you look hard enough, both of their names resemble 'Miata'!
- Refer to the articles on page 7 and 8 for more Miata related facts.

I hope to see you at the Holiday Christmas party where friends, food, and fun are abundant! Then before we know it, we will be discussing ideas for the “places we’ll go” Zoom Zooming next year!





December Christmas Holiday Party Information

Date & Time: Saturday, December 7, 2019 5:30 PM
Location: Home of Jim and Marilyn Bickley
Address: 4908 Fish Hook Road, South Jordan 84009



Note: there are several stairs leading to Jim and Marilyn's front door. To enter with minimal stairs, you can drive around to the back by their garage where there is parking for a couple of cars. Then enter from the back door.

All dinner food except dessert will be provided by the club, including items such as turkey, ham, potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetables, salads, rolls, water, and soft drinks. If you want other beverages to drink, it will be 'BYOB'.

Feel free to bring a small dessert to share.

Don't forget to bring a "White Elephant" gift to exchange at the party.



Please plan on coming. This is one of the very best parties of the year and it will be a great way for us to wrap up 2019!



Upcoming January 2020 Meetings:

Monthly Luncheon and Meeting

Head's up information for next month's lunch and meeting.

Date: Saturday, January 4th, 11:30 am

Location: Red Robin in Murray. Address is 316 E. Winchester Blvd
 Murray, UT 84107. Phone 801-266-9410



Annual Election and Planning Meeting

Date: Saturday, January 18th, 5:00 pm

Location: Bountiful Mazda. Address is 2815 S Main St, Bountiful, UT 84010

Bring drive ideas and a 2020 calendar!



Birthdays & Memberships

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

NAME	EXPIRING
BRUCE BILODEAU	12/31/2019
EARL GREEN	12/31/2019
JOANN JACOBSEN-WELLS	12/31/2019
JOE LEVERICH	12/31/2019
STEVEN LOFTUS	12/31/2019
DARWIN & LORI STEED	12/31/2019

Membership Expired: \$35 Dual / \$25

NAME	EXPIRED
JON DAY	11/30/2019
ROBERT FRANSEN	11/30/2019
CHRISTY & AINSLEY HEADEY	11/30/2019
KENT & DIANA HOUSLEY	10/31/2019
MARK & SHAUNA MIDGLEY	9/30/2019
LEONARD & SHAUNA MILLGATE	11/30/2019
CHERYL SCHAEFER	10/31/2019
TYLER STARK	10/31/2019
JAMES & HILLARY VREDEVELD	11/30/2019

NEW MEMBERS

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
NONE		



REMOVED FROM ROSTER

THOMAS & LAUREL DRYSDALE



NAME	BIRTHDAY
LYNNE AOYAMA	5 Dec
MIKE BAILEY	6 Dec
DOROTHY BOWERS	6 Dec
DEVIN BROWNING	6 Dec
ALI BAZZAZ	11 Dec
ROBERT MECHLING	12 Dec
GORDON NICHOLL	15 Dec
RICHARD DYSON	17 Dec
DEB MOON	19 Dec
MICHAEL McFARLAND	25 Dec
KATHY KANKAINEN	27 Dec
DAVE ENCHEFF	28 Dec
RICK KISER	29 Dec
DANETTE DAVIS	30 Dec

Membership Dues Reminder

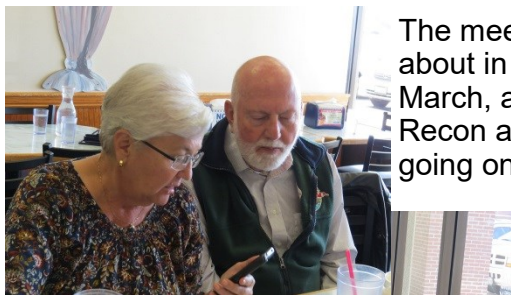
If you wish to renew your membership, and we hope you will, please give or send a check to Club Treasurer, Margie Newson, for the appropriate amount. **A Dual Membership (for yourself and a spouse, sibling or significant other) is \$35, and \$25 for Single. It is \$35 dual/\$25 single if you have the 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.treasumc@icloud.com.

November Luncheon Report By: Valerie Francis

The November lunch and meeting was held at Leatherby's Family Creamery in Taylorsville, a new favorite for the good food and service. It was especially amazing to see the fantastic looking ice cream desserts that several members ordered. They looked so yummy and decadent!



There was a smaller group than normal, with about 30 attendees, but we enjoyed visiting with each other. In fact, because there was no planned drive afterwards it was nice to hang around longer than usual to catch up with each other.



The meeting was short too but we covered several new events which you can read about in this newsletter; movie day to see "Ford vs. Ferrari", Moab VI Recon in March, and the Great Western Adventure 2. Look for the information for the Moab Recon and the Great Western Adventure in this newsletter if you are interested in going on either or both of these trips.



Moab VI Recon Trip By: Susan Vaughn



In the November meeting of the Utah Miata Club, a recon trip to Moab was discussed. The MIM VI committee wants to go down one last time before the rally to confirm the plans for April when all the guest arrive. If you are a drive leader or sweep this is a good time to drive your route and be familiar where you are going. We want to tie up any loose ends on this recon trip.

The weekend of March 13-14, 2019 was decided upon. Red Cliff Lodge is giving us a room rate of \$199.00. That is \$90.00 off the regular rate. Each person will need to make his or her own reservation. The phone number is 435-259-0952. You will need to tell them you are part of the Utah Miata Group to get this rate. Right now there are plenty of rooms so we do not have a block on hold. My recommendation is to get your room scheduled ASAP. This is the beginning of their busy season and rooms will begin to fill soon after the first of the year.

In January, we will discuss the drive down and get the trip planned.



Member Spotlight By: Carol Lynn Vredevel



Our spotlight couple this month is Tom and Pam Wharram

It's my pleasure to introduce you to two special friends and new members of the Utah Miata Club, Tom and Pam Wharram. Pam and I have known each other since we were teenagers, and Tom since our Friday night outings at Widow McCoys in our much younger days. We have been in each other's lives on and off since then but have always stayed fast friends. We have had lots of fun together throughout the years, and told them how much we have enjoyed our Utah Miata Club friends, driving adventures and trips since we joined back in 2007. They have been snowbirds between Salt Lake City and Mesquite since retiring, but recently decided to live in the sunshine and mild winters of Mesquite full time. But they will be joining us on some of our drives and club adventures. Pam will give us a little insight into their lives and why they decided to become Miata-ites.



We bought our first Miata 2019 MX5 RF Machine Grey this year. We were inspired to do so by the Vredevel's enthusiasm for being involved in the Utah Miata Club and all the fun they have.

Lou and Carol Lynn were convinced we should buy a Miata and join the club so we did and we have been members as of October 2019.

Tom and I both grew up in Utah. Tom grew up and lived in Salt Lake City. I grew up in Delta and left to go to school in Salt Lake City. We have lived in Utah for all of our lives and just became residents of Mesquite Nevada having sold our condo in June of this year, and bought a home in Falcon Ridge, Mesquite as of July 31st, 2019.

Tom owned our business, Intermountain Greeting Cards for 42 years. We sold the business and retired back in 2013. We both worked together in the greeting card business for most of our married life. I took a position at the NAC for 10 years in advertising sales, then quit to go into Real Estate finding that was not my forte;

so I went back to work at Intermountain Greetings, until we sold the business and retired.

We work very hard at having fun in retirement. As with most people who retire, we are always wondering how we found time to work!

Tom and I met at the infamous Widow McCoys bar in 1977. We married in 1979. We have been happily married for 40 years this year November 17.

We never had kids but have always had our fur babies to keep us entertained. We now have 2 schnauzers. Zoey, who is a white, 12 lb adorable little princess, and Jack, who was adopted by us at 5 years old. He is now 13 and has diabetes. We call him our special needs dog, because he is so goofy.

When Tom and I met at Widow McCoys it took 3 months before we actually had a real date, since I was already in a relationship. Tom likes to tell the story, that Valentines was coming up so he called and asked if I wanted to go out. I said I wasn't sure, since I hadn't heard yet from my current boyfriend. Tom, then said "well, why don't you ask him and let me know". I immediately said "I don't have to ask anyone if I want to go out". So, Tom said "I'll pick you up at 7" and there you go!

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Tom's interests are golf, our ATV RZR, traveling and watching any sports on TV. My interests include, Our RZR, art, painting, drawing, and photography. Together, we had our time boating at Lake Powell, fishing at Flaming Gorge, and traveling in our 5th wheel. Now, we both love living in Mesquite, riding with our friends cross country in our RZR. We are looking forward to Miata life and meeting new friends.

We are just excited to get to know our new friends in the Miata Club and joining them in traveling in our adorable Miata. We love it and can't believe we actually have one in our garage!!!! We want to especially thank the Vredevelde's for being so enthusiastic and showing us what fun we can have with a Miata.



Pam and Tom enjoy spending time with friends, new adventures and traveling so they are a perfect fit for our club. They have already signed up for the Miataland in Italy and the GWA2 adventures coming up next summer, and we are really looking forward to sharing fun times with our long time friends. I'm sure you will have a chance to meet them in person soon....in the meantime, we'd like to welcome them both to our Miata family!



Miata of the Month By: Mike Bailey



RoseAnn Weber, our newest club member, joined the club before purchasing her Miata. She has come to our club luncheons a couple times with Karen Christiansen, and developed a passion for owning a Miata while being with Karen. We were talking at the November luncheon and she asked me how she could find a good Miata. I pointed her in the right direction and gave her some points on how to find a good reliable Miata.

She started looking for one at our dealer sponsor, Bountiful Mazda. She drove a brand new RF and also a used 2016 there. She loved the new one but decided it was too expensive, and really didn't like the 2016 she drove, nor the color of it. She also could not decide on buying an automatic or a manual transmission. I told her to drive both, which she did.

She checked out KSL.com and they didn't have many available from private parties. There was a pristine 1999 10th Anniversary Edition for sale in Ogden but it had lots of miles on it, and RoseAnn was wary of a car with lots of miles. The other KSL ads were from dealers. She looked at several and finally decided on a Reflex Blue 2017 GT with fairly low miles and fell in love with it. It had all the "bells and whistles" on it so this is what she got. I'm happy for her and welcome, RoseAnn, to our "Miata Family".



Most Reliable New Car \$ Can Buy By: Mike Bailey



"The Most Reliable New Car You Can Buy Starts at \$25,000". This is the headline on an article by Michael Tedder that was published November 18, 2019 by **Consumer Reports**. They recently unveiled their **'Annual Auto Survey'** which studies data collected on over 420,000 vehicles to determine which cars will, overall give their owners the least amount of headaches. The survey looked at 17 common complaints such as squeaky brakes and broken interior trim, to major complaints like 'out-of-warranty' transmission repairs or trouble with four-wheel drive systems, and other common factors and issues, to come up with a **"Predicted Reliability Score"**. Consumer Reports states that the score is then compared to data collected from the their own track testing, as well as owner satisfaction survey results and safety data to calculate each test vehicle's **"Overall Score"**.

When all the data was put together they came up with a "Top 10" from the thousands of cars that were surveyed. Those cars that made the top ten is considered an amazing feat because of all the items, both good and bad, that the intensive survey included in it's report. Cars were rated on a scale of "1 to 100" points.

The 2020 MX-5 Miata was rated #1 pick as the top car of any entry! This is an incredible honor for the auto industry, and Mazda. The Miata had a total score of 95. The Chevrolet Colorado had the worst reliability rating with a score of 4 out of 100 points (sorry Chevy!). What is particularly interesting is that "reliability" and "price" are not necessarily closely tied together. In other words, 'a more expensive car does not automatically translate into one without hassles' the report says. Sometimes low-priced cars rate very high in terms of reliability. Five of the top 10 most reliable new cars start under \$30,000.

It is also surprising to note that Mazda has 3 models in the Top 10 from this survey. Miata ranked #1, Score 95, Starting price at \$25,730. Toyota Prius Prime and Toyota Prius Standard was ranked #2 and #3 respectively with scores of 94 and 92, but priced \$2,000 more on the Prime than the Miata. The Lexus GX ranked #4 with Score of 91 but costs \$53,000, more than twice the cost of a Miata. Mazda's CX-3 ranked #5, Score of 89 at \$20,390. #6 was Hyundai Kona, Score 90, \$20,100. #7 was Mazda CX-9, Score 87, \$33,790. Rounding out Ranking 8-10 was the Lexus NX, Toyota 4Runner, and Lexus GS, all considerably more than a Miata or another Mazda.

To sum it up, Mazda puts out an excellent vehicle in the Miata, as all our club members know. In addition to excellence and reliability look how much fun we have in our Miatas. As Mazda has said in their corporate advertising for the First Generation NA MX-5: "Miata is Always the Answer". This is indeed a correct statement and it has carried this slogan for 30 years! I even have this on my Christmas Sweater for this year!



Club Jackets By: Miataware Man

Now is the time to get your club jackets if you do not have one. They are great not only for the winter season but for early spring and fall for those chilly early morning or evening rides. They fit conveniently behind your seats and fold up nice, are lightweight., come in several colors, and are made of 100% Polyester Microfiber shell with an airy, cool mesh-lining. Full front zipper and have a concealed hood with in case of rain. Jackets have two slash pockets and elastic cuffs, and are water and wind resistant. Unisex Sizes for men and women.



Club Jackets sell for \$70.- \$78 depending on club logo. Official Logo or Mountains Logo offered. Embroidered logo with your name embroidered opposite side of the logo. I have several orders in now so order in December and you can have them for January's meeting. **Call Mike Bailey, Miata Wear Man for the club. 801-597-1456 or email: mike@mikebaileyprinting.com.**

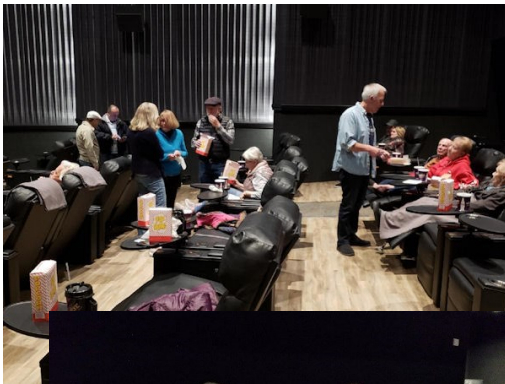


Ford vs. Ferrari Movie By: Mike Bailey

The Ford vs. Ferrari movie was an excellent choice for our club members to go to, and the Megaplex VIP theater in Holladay was packed with our group. It was an excellent planned event by Susan Vaughn and we had a great turnout. I think everyone loved this movie as it was non-stop action. We were treated to a drink and popcorn with our admission, and had luxury heated, reclining seats to relax in.

Thanks goes to Susan for putting this together as it was a great Miata Club event!

PS: Mazda is the only Japanese automaker to win the 24 Hours of Le Mans competition, which they did in 1991.





Great Western Adventure 2 - With/ Explore Oregon

July 12th thru July 23rd 2020 By: Lou Vredeveld

Join us for what is destined to be one of the premiere Bucket List Trips for 2020. The Willamette Miata Club is putting on the Explore Oregon Mount Hood event in July of 2020. Anyone that has attended an Explore Oregon event in the past knows what a great job they do planning the event and drives, so why not include it in the GWA2.

The GWA2 will take us on new adventures and roads that we have not been on in the past. Stops will include:

- Thermopolis Wyoming, with its Hot Springs and unbelievable scenery.
- Cody Wyoming, spending the day in museums and its western style atmosphere.
- Butte Montana, via the Chief Joseph Byway, Beartooth Highway and Northern Yellowstone.
- Clarkston Washington, via Highway 12 and the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest.
- Mount Hood Village Oregon, Explore Oregon with the Willamette Club.
- Coos Bay Oregon, via the Oregon Coast road.
- Gold Beach Oregon, spending the day on the Rouge River Jet Boat Tour and the Beach.
- Chico California, via Highway 299 the Trinity Highway.
- Reno Nevada, Via Highway 70 spending the day enjoying the National Automobile Museum and River Walk, maybe even a little gaming.

As you can see this is a GREAT trip with tons to see and do. **We would like to see you for all or part of this AD-VENTURE. The Explore Oregon event is limited to the first 100 cars... So don't delay.**

For any questions or information contact Lou Vredeveld.



2019 Calendar of Events



Monthly Lunch Meeting Schedule and Additional Drives/Events:

Dec 7th: Holiday party (5:30 pm, Jim & Marilyn Bickley's home), Refer to page 2

2020 Meetings and Events

Jan 4th: Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Red Robin in Murray) - Valerie and Doyle

Jan 18th: Election and Planning meeting (5:00 pm, Bountiful Mazda)

Feb 1st: Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, TBD) – New President

March 13—15: Miatas in Moab Recon—Mark and Susan Vaughn

April 30th: Miatas in Moab VI —Mark Vaughn

July 12th-23rd: Great Western Adventure (combined with Explore Oregon) --- Lou Vredeveld

July 16th-19th: Explore Oregon 2020 (combined with GWA) --- Willamette Valley Miata Club

(www.oregonmx5.com)

Canada's Capital Miata Meet—2020 (August 13—16, 2020) - <http://ottawamiata.net>

Miataland Italy (August 20—Sept 2, 2020) —Mike Bailey, Karen Christiansen

Buggies & Bridges III (Sept 24—27, 2020) Refer to www.pacemiataclub.org - Pace Miata Club



Candid Camera

By Mike Bailey

This month's Candid Camera shots are from several trips like Explore Oregon, GWA, a Christmas party, and a couple from Mike Foster going back to 2003 . Enjoy



**SMILE
YOU'RE
ON
CANDID
CAMERA**

