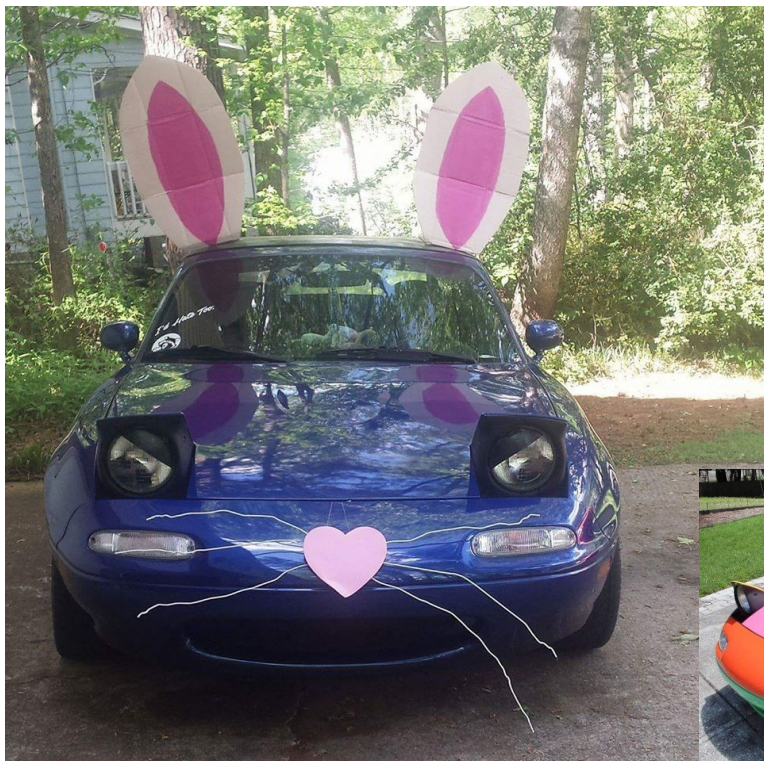




The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



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

My last month's 'From the Top Down' article was a little sad for me to write because of events that had transpired last month. This month with the Coronavirus expanding it's scope and government and health officials closing social gatherings, not only locally, but state, national, and the entire world, it seems like it is becoming much harder for us to gather together, because of the restrictions put on all of us.

I had promoted on our Facebook page our "Crazy Hat" drive and luncheon for April, but feel that it is now in the best interest of all of us to keep with 'social distancing' and not a good idea to gather in groups of 10 people or more. It is just a good idea to be safe, rather than sorry! In regards to this, we will cancel our April meeting and drive. If club members want to do their own individual drive with their spouse, I think this is ok. If you do, please send me an email and a couple photos, if you like, on where you went and what you did, and we will feature it in next month's newsletter.

If this is cleared up a little more, and the mandates change, then maybe we can meet for the May Luncheon and drive, and wear our Crazy Hats to this event. Currently this is scheduled with Steve and Kathy Nielsen to meet in Tooele. It appears that we, as a club, will have to 'play it a month at a time' to see how things work out with the mandates and changing conditions of the COVID-19 situation.

As all of you know by now, our Miatas in Moab VI event has been cancelled for April 30-May 2, 2020. This is sad for me to come to this realization because of all the hard work the club's Moab committee has put into this for over a year now. With the cancellation we are refunding most of the registration fees back to the attendees, which Margie and Jim have been working very hard on doing this. But, I am sure that we will be putting this back on the calendar once the virus clears up and things get back to 'normal'.

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It is funny but in today's newspaper I read an article about the Coronavirus being called the "new normal". The article's editor said that this is the incorrect term to call this and instead it is the "new now"! I have to agree with him because these changes that we are having to our lifestyle are not permanent and only changes for now...mainly to keep us safe!

Just like other pandemics this will come to an end and our lives will get back to a somewhat normal state as they used to be. I really believe this is true. We will, one day, be back to our regular meetings and get-togethers, drives, and activities. We just need to "weather the storm" and like with all big storms, they eventually come to an end, and we will have sunny skies and peaceful days. I want to thank all the club members for supporting each other in times of need and for all the comforting words and support you give to each other. I see this through your kind jesters and comments of FB pages. We truly have amazing people in our club! I wish everyone to be safe and enjoy your families during this time.

Happy Easter Holiday to you and your family. Zoom - Zoom! Mike



April Luncheon Meeting CANCELLED **Crazy Hat Day** By: Mike Bailey



I had originally intended for the Crazy Hat Day Luncheon to be at Leatherby's Restaurant but the state has closed all the restaurants. So it was rescheduled to do a bring your own "sack lunch" with meeting to be at the Riverton City Park by the Old Dome Meeting Hall at 1452 W. 12600 S. in Riverton on Saturday, April 4, 2020. With the mandate of not having groups of 10 people or more together at the same time, and following the "social distancing" rules of not being closer than six feet from others, it is prudent at this time to cancel this event for April. If things change by the time the May luncheon and meeting rolls around, we will plan to do the Crazy Hat event then, scheduled for May 9th. Because we do not know how long the mandates will go on and how long we will be advised to not be together as a group, so we will just have to see how it goes.

I have also had conversations with several other Miata friends from out of state. They are also concerned about the COVID-19 virus and what is going on in their states. Seems like most are taking the same precautions. Several Miata friends have told me that they are still going on drives, but staying in their vehicles and keep a distance of at least six feet apart, or if they get out of their vehicles, they maintain the social distancing. They have all indicated that they do enjoy going on Miata drives but are usually doing it with fewer people in their club. I think we should follow the same rules. Miata people like to be close to each other, and handshake and hug each other. This is hard for us to not do this at this time and maintain distance, but we all realize how necessary it is.

Lynn and I may or may not do our drive on April 4th, but if we do, we will do it in the afternoon around 1:00 pm. We will decide closer to this date and most likely will post it on FB if we do. Anyone is welcome to meet us at the above address if you want to join us, or call us. It also depends on how the weather is. We would like to do a top down drive if it is sunny and warm. This is our itinerary: Mountain View Corridor (Hwy. 85) to Saratoga Springs. Drive Hwy. 68 south on west side of Utah Lake. Right at Hwy. 6 in Elberta to Eureka. Turn onto Hwy. 36 north to Vernon. Then right on Pony Express Hwy. & Trail Road to Faust and continue to Eagle Mountain and home. If you choose to do a drive by yourselves on this day or another, please send me a comment and photo and we can post it in next month's newsletter. I am sure we will not stop driving our Miatas because of all this! Please everyone, be safe at home and in your travels.



Birthdays & Memberships

NEW MEMBERS

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
BOB & KIM RICHARDS	2006	RED
GARY LAMBERT	2019	RED

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

NAME	EXPIRING
KAY BARRELL	4/30/2020
ERNEST & NANCY BENTLEY	4/30/2020
BRIAN & ABBIE GERLACH	4/30/2020
MICHAEL RHODES	4/30/2020

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

NAME	EXPIRED
BILL & JANET ANDERSON	3/31/2020
RYAN BETZ	2/28/2020
GARY CHOU	3/31/2020
MERLIN JUDKINS	3/31/2020

REMOVED FROM ROSTER

NAME	EXPIRED
BRUCE BILODEAU	12/31/2019
EARL GREEN	12/31/2019
STEPHEN LOFTUS	12/31/2019



NAME	BIRTHDAY
KATHY JO FACKERELL	7 Apr
DOUGLAS KLUENDER	8 Apr
CHARISSE FURGUSON	10 Apr
CHRISTINE MACKERELL	11 Apr
SUSAN VAUGHN	14 Apr
JOE LEVERICH	16 Apr
MARK FURGUSON	19 Apr
GARY COLLINGS	21 Apr
ANNETTE NIELSEN	24 Apr
SHARON MECHLING	25 Apr
TERRY BLACK	27 Apr

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.

Club Officers

President: Mike Bailey
Vice President: Hank Pond

Board Members: Valerie Francis, Brian Christiansen, Ken Jaworski

Secretary: Jim Newson
Treasurer: Margie Newson



(Tentative) May Luncheon Meeting Information

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

Location: Tooele, LDS Meeting Building Bowery

Address: 180 S. Coleman (Street coordinates are 200 South 600 West, Tooele UT 84074)

This is a bring your own lunch to eat outside at the bowery, with a drive to follow. Below is a list of some of the places for takeout food in Tooele.

East side of street:

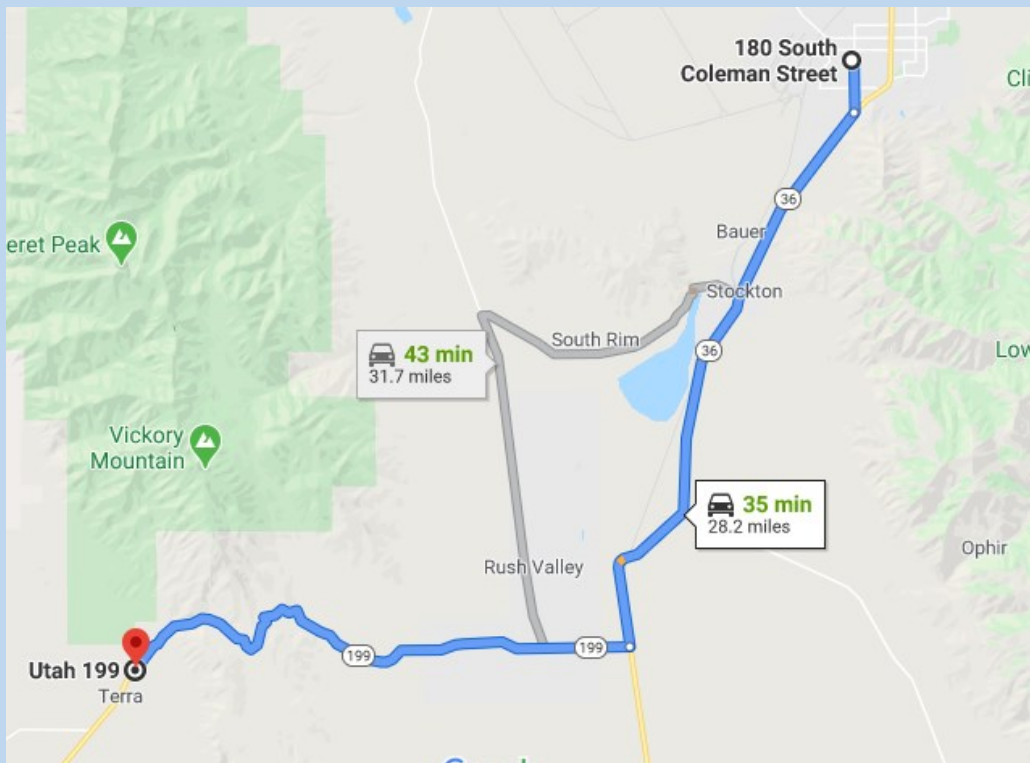
Popeyes
Apollo Burger
LosCharritos
Zaxbys
McDonalds
Subway
Taco Time
Arby's

West side of street:

Burger King
Carl's Jr
Café Rio
Costa Vida
Wendy's
KFC / Taco Bell
Little Ceasars

After Meeting Drive Information:

After our monthly meeting we will drive to Johnson's Pass to enjoy one of the best twisty roads in northern Utah. After driving Johnson's Pass both directions, you may want to consider a side trip to the old mining town of Ophir Utah. Ophir has a small historical district with antique buildings to walk among.



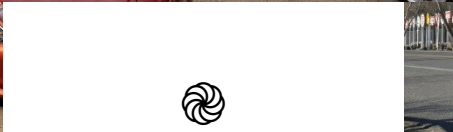
March Luncheon and Drive Report By: Mike Bailey

Our March Luncheon and Drive was excellent. The weather was really nice, especially for the drive. We only got lightly sprinkled on at the very end of the drive when we were ready to head home. Jim's Restaurant in Riverton was very nice being in the private room. The waitress was very efficient and we all got our food quickly, and it was good. We had a quick meeting to discuss everything that was coming up in the months ahead. We had a pretty good turnout of members and introduced a new couple, Bob & Kim Richards. They had just purchased a 2006 True Red Sport 3rd generation Miata. Same color as Amy Beckstead's. We also had a new potential member, Adam Gergetz who is a BYU student from Wisconsin. He brought his friend Kayla who was very sweet. Adam has a 2000 Mahogany SE Miata. They both told me they enjoyed our group and the drive to Provo after, which was close to their home. We hope to see them out to our club in the coming months.



After lunch we lined up in the parking lot and headed on the back roads to the Lakeside Storage and Museum, which is located on West Center street close to the entrance of the Utah Lake Boat Harbor and Marina. Lakeside has an incredible collection of vintage Gasoline Station signs and anything automotive such as vintage gas pump, autos, and gas station memorabilia. They claim to have the largest collection of vintage gas station signs in America. They also have an RV Camp park across the street with more signs displayed there along with a trailer with Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe statues. Also there were vintage airplanes and other types of museum related items, including a "rocket to the moon" arcade ride (for a quarter or maybe it was a nickel back then) and various other things like that.

We had a pretty good turnout of about 17 Miatas travel down, taking a different road than we have been on before. I was glad no one got lost as we had lots of turns and different roads to take from Riverton down to Saratoga Springs. We drove through Lehi and American Fork, Orem and Provo by way of Vineyard by Utah Lake. Thanks for the good turnout and for all the fun we had.



Moab VI Recon Trip Report By: Mike Bailey

The Recon trip to Moab was a nice weekend to get away. We only had 6 cars on this trip but Christy and Ainsley joined up with us in their SUV later in Moab. We met with Judy, the manager of Red Cliffs Lodge, where our meeting was short as she anticipated that we would be cancelling our Miatas in Moab VI event. We got right to the point and didn't have to discuss much, but did tell her we would be back at a better time and date, which she was fine with.

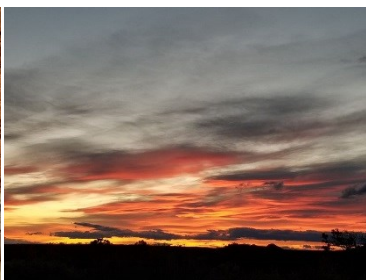


We did take the time to enjoy our stay there and had dinner at the lodge that evening and got an early night's sleep. The next morning Mark and Susan went to Newspaper Rock for a drive, while most the rest of us headed to Arches National Park. It was around 11:00 am and the line was already starting to get long. Sue and Brian Christiansen were with us and hadn't been to many of the places there, so it was fun to be with them and show them around. We did a short hike at Devil's Garden which is at the far end of the park. Susan was on crutches and even I had a hard time keeping up with her because I was out of shape for hiking. It was fun however, being with everyone.

The weather was a bit "iffy" with cloud coverage most of the weekend and a little chilly as you will notice from some of the photos we took at Arches National Park and also at Dead Horse Point. We went for a Saturday evening drive to Dead Horse Point to watch the sunset. It was spectacular and probably one of the best ones I have experienced there. Christy and Ainsley went horseback riding and seemed to have lots of fun with that according to Ainsley.

Lynn and I also drove over to Potash Rd. from Arches to show Brian and Sue the petroglyphs there, which they had not seen before. Lots of people were rock climbing on the cliffs there. We did go into the town of Moab for a dinner at a Mexican Restaurant. A few days later Moab put out an order to close things down and comply with the 'social distancing' order that was just coming into effect. And by the time we got home things had drastically changed concerning the COVID-19 status.

We left heading north from Red Cliffs up Hwy.128 to Dewey Bridge and I-70, which was a little different way to go home. The road was newly paved and greatly improved from what it was on our last Recon trip to Moab in March of last year. We stopped in Green River for lunch at Ray's Tavern for burgers, and was going to go to the John Wesley Powell Museum, but it was closed down so we just headed straight home from there. It was a fun trip and nice get-away for us. We had plenty of time to relax and have fun as we didn't have to go over our pre-scheduled events for the Moab event, or even check out the roads for the drives because of cancelling the Moab event. Thanks to those who participated in this.



Remember When? By: Mike Bailey

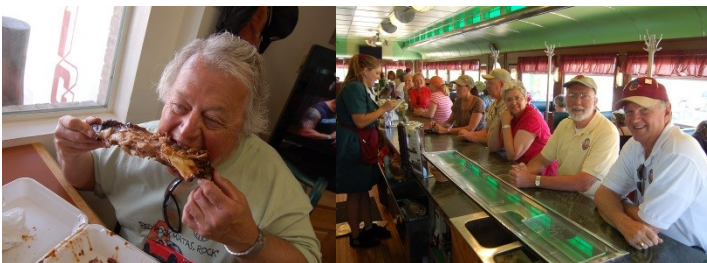
Let's go back 10 years to 2010 and see if you can guess where these photos were taken. All photos are from the 2010 year events and hopefully most of you will remember these events. I'm going to highlight several events or drives we did, that were very memorable to me.



We did the Albion Basin hike up to see the Wildflowers. Robert Mechling was generally in charge of this event for several years around this time. We really enjoyed the beauty of Little Cottonwood Canyon on this drive. We then did a drive to one of our favorite spots; the Alpine Loop drive up American Fork Canyon. It was on this particular drive that I climbed a small hill on the steep side of the mountain to take a group photo, stepped on a rock and fell down the hill, almost breaking the lens off my camera. Everyone got a good laugh out of that one!



We did a June Drive that took us to the old Sinclair station in Elberta that we have visited many times through the years. On July 4th, 2010 we did the Mirror Lake Highway drive and stopped at Bald Mountain for a photo and also stopped at the Oakley Diner. We had a lunch at Savory Palate with our club Chef Cheryl Schaefer, which was a real culinary treat for those that attended. For several years in a row back then, with the help of former member Patrick Harding and whom I sold my '95 Merlot M Edition to, we did the 'Cancer Sucks' event. Last but not least, we had Miatas in Moab IV starting at Canyonlands Inn in downtown Moab. We then moved the event venue to Red Cliff's Lodge because Canyonlands Inn could not hold our group of almost 500 people. These were some great memories of the year 2010 with the Utah Miata Club.



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Miatas in Moab VI Cancellation and Message By: Mike Bailey

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we have had to cancel the Miatas in Moab VI event. The committee was very sad to have had to do this. But with all that is going on we deemed that it was not safe to continue to hold the event and instead we wanted to be safe, especially with the current status of events going on around the world, our country and state. We did not want to take the chance of having anyone get sick or even be exposed to this virus when coming to the event. Also the mandates from our local government officials and health care professionals we have been advised to maintain "Social Distancing" and not to assemble in groups of 10 or more.

With this in mind, we need to be cautious in all our activities and limit our group meetings and assemblies. To let everyone know, the Newson's, with the help of the Becksteads, we have returned the Registration fees to everyone signed up for the event. We deducted a very small amount from the fees for the relatively minor expenses we had already spent for the event, so everyone should be exceptionally happy with the return payments. We also included the printed Event Goodie Bag and Event Pin along with the refund. Refunds should arrive in mail boxes before the date this newsletter comes out.



We most likely will plan on rescheduling our Moab event for some time in the future, but most likely not until 2022. Thanks to everyone in the club who helped with this event, especially the Event Committee Members and also Donn Cichocki who spent countless hours promoting the event to other Miata Clubs and people.

On another note, I want to let all club members know that we will be limiting our one-on-one meetings and gatherings for the near future, until it is safe to do so. We will continue our 'social distancing' and refrain from our customary group hugs for awhile until it is safe to get together as a group. We have cancelled our April Luncheon and Drive and this may also happen in May and other months in the future. I will be bringing my loud speaker to any meeting we may have so that we can separate a little more from each other and so everyone can hear the messages. We will have to see how the pandemic plays out.



We may still do some of the drives in our Miatas, but we will all need to exert caution and keep our distances. I have been in touch with other Miata clubs and they still do their drives with these same cautions. If going to a restroom break, they split up in groups going to different gas stations. This seems to be working for them. All their food is usually ordered through Drive-Thru Fast Food places. It is not to say that we will not continue to have good times with group drives, but should probably go out in smaller groups. Any suggestions or comments from our club members are appreciated. The Officers and Directors want to let everyone know how much we appreciate everyone in our club and we will continually support each other in these concerning times.





2020 Calendar of Events



By: Steve Beckstead

- April 4th:** Monthly lunch and meeting **CANCELLED** - Mike Bailey
- April 30th:** Miatas in Moab VI -- **CANCELLED** Mark Vaughn
- May 9th:** **TENTATIVE** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Tooele Bowery, Johnson's Pass) - Steve & Kathy Nielson
- Jun 6th:** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Granny Annie's, HAFB museum) – Jim Newson
- July 11th:** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Midway, Wasatch Back Drive) – Jan and Ken
- July 12th-23rd:** Great Western Adventure II (combined with Explore Oregon)
- July 16th-19th:** Explore Oregon 2020 (combined with GWA II) --- Willamette Valley Miata Club
- Aug 1st:** Monthly breakfast and meeting (TBD, Bear Lake Raspberry Run) – Steve & Ronda
- Aug 15th:** Annual Picnic and meeting (Details TBD) – Mike Bailey
- Aug 17th:** Miataland Italy (August 17 – Sept 7) - Mike Bailey
- Sep 12th:** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Lunch TBD, Eden Drive) – Amy Beckstead
- Sep 24th-27th:** Buggies & Bridges III (Sept 24 - 27, 2020) - Refer to UMC website
- Sep 25th-27th:** Torrey Weekend Trip (Details TBD) – Eric and Kathy
- Oct 3rd:** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Location & drive TBD) – Val & Doyle
- Oct 8th-11th:** Surf 'N' Safari, San Diego Club, See UMC website or link below for information:
<http://www.sandiegomiataclub.org/sns20/index.html>
- Oct 24th:** Halloween Party (Details TBD) – Ken and Jan
- Nov 7th:** Monthly lunch and meeting (11:30 am, Lunch TBD) – Mike Bailey
- Dec 5th:** Annual Christmas Party (Details & Location TBD) – Mike Bailey



ZOOM-ZOOM



Candid Camera

By Mike Bailey

Photos for this month's Candid Camera from the Moab Recon trip and 2020 Luncheons.

