



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



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### From the Top Down By: Hank Pond, Vice President

Well, the calendar says that 2020 has ended..., but I'm not so sure (insert eye roll here). We do seem to be getting ahead of the curve with vaccine being available, but we still have to be vigilant until we've reached the moment where we no longer have to be worried about spreading anything to our loved ones.

The March lunch meeting turned out to be a mistake (being held inside a restaurant). I personally visited that restaurant the day before we met and it was large enough to accommodate our large group safely (recommended social distancing). I even spoke to the person in charge that day to confirm those arrangements. I was assured we would get the space we needed to conduct our lunch meeting....

However, when we arrived the following day the place was quite busy and they hurried and stuck us way too close together. My fault. I should have just directed everyone outside and suggested we meet back in the parking lot 45 minutes later.

As a result, the next lunch meetings will be held OUTDOORS in various PARKS. Please bring what you would like to eat with you along with a camp chair and/or blanket. We've done this quite well before and this should present little problem especially as the weather improves.

April's lunch and drive will be led by Val & Doyle. May's by Ronda & Steve and June's by Jan & Ken. Thanks you guys for stepping up!

Lastly, A word about our fearless leader Mike Bailey and club member Shylo Bazzaz...

As most of you are aware Mike is currently in IMC Hospital's ICU with COVID. He had gotten his first vaccine, but had contracted COVID before he could get his final shot....

Mike has had a rough go of it and Lynn has asked me to share "He's progressing very slowly. Still very critically ill lungs and COVID issues."

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Lynn further asked me to express her “deep appreciation for all the prayers and love in our behalf.”

Shylo is also experiencing some new medical issues and can also “use all the prayers she can get”. Please see the articles in this newsletter about Mike and Shylo.

Many have expressed a desire to do something and currently prayers and good vibes are what we can do most! We look forward to meeting with our beautiful Miata family and hope you are all keeping well!

Keep zoom-zooming! Hank Pond



## **April 10th Luncheon Meeting & Drive** **(Weather Permitting—Countryside and Canyons)**

**Date & Time:** **Saturday, April 10th 11:30 AM**

**Location:** **West Bountiful City Park**

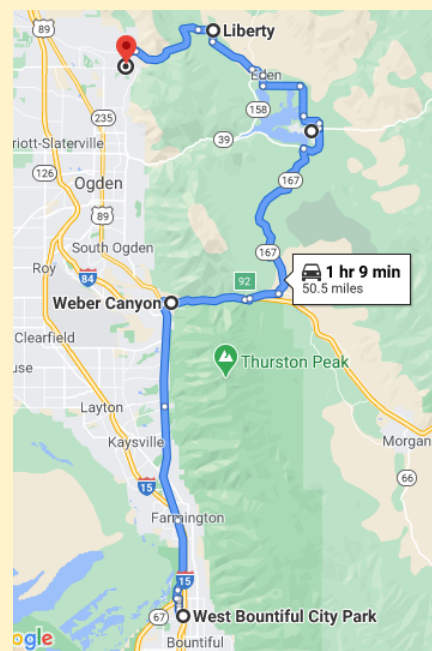
**Address:** **550 W 1600 N, West Bountiful, UT 84087**

**Access the park by driving south from Centerville on 400 West or driving north from Bountiful on 200 West (which are the same road) then go west under the freeway on 1600 N (Pages Lane) Bountiful.**

**Information:** The park bowery can't be reserved until April 15th so it is first come first serve. So **bring your camp chairs or a blanket** in case the bowery is being used.

**Bring your own lunch:** there are many fast food places along Bountiful 5th S. (Exit 316) and even more at the Centerville Parrish Lane exit (Exit 319). There are no fast food places at the Bountiful 400 N. exit. Please bring your masks as we will continue to social distance.

**Drive Information:** Weather permitting, after lunch we will head north to Huntsville via Legacy Hwy, to Hwy 89, then Weber Canyon, and up over Trappers Loop. We will stop for a break at the Huntsville Town Park. After our break we then head through Eden and up over North Ogden Canyon. This is the official end of the drive and you can choose your own route home. The drive leader will be going back south via N Mountain Road which eventually turns into Harrison Blvd, then back down Hwy 89 to I-15 or Legacy. Or you can head west on 2700 N, Ogden, directly to I-15.





## Shylo Bazzaz Update By: Valerie Francis

Our sweet club member Shylo will be undergoing a second round of chemotherapy starting on April 9th, with possible additional surgery. Several weeks after completing her first chemo series additional tumors have been found. She wanted me to share the following with you: "I sure could use all the prayers I can get. I love and miss all of you and hope to see you all soon."

Speaking for our Miata family, we hope and pray for strength for Shylo and her complete recovery so we can see her and Ali soon.



## Birthdays & Memberships

### NEW MEMBERS

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
TOM MOEGLEIN	2021	RED
PAUL HOUSE	2020	GRAY

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

NAME	EXPIRING
SONNY & CORALEE JCKOWSKI	4/30/2021

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

NAME	EXPIRED
ERIC ACHTER	1/31/2021
BILAL AIJAZ	2/28/2021
BILL & JANET ANDERSON	3/31/2021
JIM & MARILYN BICKLEY	3/31/2021
MARSHALL DING	3/31/2021
GARY LAMBERT	3/31/2021
ROBERT & SHARON MECHLING	3/31/2021
RICHARD MUELLER	3/31/2021
MICHAEL ROLLINS	3/31/2021
DARWIN & LORI STEED	12/31/2020



NAME	BIRTHDAY
LINDA GROSS	6 Apr
KATHY JO FACKRELL	7 Apr
DOUGLAS KLUENDER	8 Apr
CHARISSE FURGUSON	10 Apr
SUSAN VAUGHN	14 Apr
JOE LEVERICH	16 Apr
ERLENE BROWN	17 Apr
MARK FURGUSON	19 Apr
GARY COLLINGS	21 Apr
JONATHON HUNTSINGER	21 Apr
CALEB MASON	23 Apr
ANNETTE NIELSEN	24 Apr
SHARON MECHLING	25 Apr
TIFFANY SHAW	26 Apr
TERRY BLACK	27 Apr
ANGIE WHITE	28 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](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).

### Club Officers

President: Mike Bailey

Vice President: Hank Pond

Secretary: Jim Newson

Board Members: Valerie Francis, Brian Christiansen, Ken Jaworski

Treasurer: Margie Newson

## March Lunch & Meeting Report By: Susan Vaughn

After lunch at Legends in Sandy, everyone assembled for the drivers meeting. Mark Vaughn, the drive leader, recommended that we have a scramble to the Chevron Station on Redwood Road in Saratoga Springs. We had a nice group of 14 cars out for the drive. Traffic on I-15 was on the heavy side so the scramble was a great idea. We all headed south on I-15 to 2100 North in Lehi. We then headed west on 2100 North to Redwood Road, from there we drove south to the Chevron Station. People lined up for the a bio break; the only one available for the drive. Drinks, snacks, and fuel were purchased and we were off.

It was a surprise to see the number of stop lights there were in Saratoga. Hank and Rex Pond were the sweep and together we were able to maneuver the stop and go's. By the time we got through all the lights, the WIND had really picked up. The fields along the road had recently been plowed and the dirt was flying. We could see the dirt off in a distance and as we continued we were in the dirt. After the first dust storm, almost all had stopped and put their top up. Only one couple was not able to get their top up. Their mask was not enough to protect them from all the dirt. I think they are still cleaning the dirt out of nose, ears and underwear. We drove through multiple dust storms, each one worse than the last. It was a total dirt out, and we could not stop as we worried someone would run in to us. The Ponds decided they did not like driving sweep. By the time we reached the old Sinclair Station everyone was ready to get out of the car. With knees shaking we all got out, stretched, and cleaned our windshields. As we all stood around we watched as a group of motorcyclist heading north right into the dirt storms. We were just happy we did not have to go back in that direction.

Our drive to Eureka was unremarkable. The sun was out, the temperature cold and no Dirt. Driving through Eureka we saw snow on the ground. The drive continued through Vernon and on to Rush Valley. At that point the group split up. Half going on to Tooele and home. The brave half turned east on Utah 73 and drove back toward Eagle Mountain and home. The best thing was we did not drive through any more dirt storms.

We have all driven in rain storms and snow storms but the dirt storms of this drive were the worst. But in spite of the dirt, we all had a wonderful time. All the cars got a car wash when they got home, waiting for the next time to go an new adventure.





## Member Spotlight: Steve & Ronda Beckstead

By: Carol Lynn Vredeveld

*Our spotlight couple for this month, Steve and Ronda Beckstead have been members of the Utah Miata Club for over 15 years, and are already well known by new and longtime members alike as two of the most fun loving and friendly people in the club. We became best of friends over the years and have been fortunate enough to have traveled all over the United States and Europe with them and our Miata Family on UMC organized trips. Steve has served as a past President, Vice President, and Director of the club. He has planned, along with Lou Vredeveld and Mike Bailey, many amazing trips driving on some of the best Miata roads through some of the most beautiful countryside in the U.S. Ronda and their daughter Amy are the birthday gift ladies and always volunteer to help at club events.*

*Steve is a great storyteller and I know you will enjoy his light hearted sense of humor as he tells us all how they ended up with their Miata's and a little about their lives together:*



It was January of 2007 and all our family did our annual car show get together at Southtown Expo Center. A few minutes in, my son Tyler ran over and said "I just found the car you are going to buy, Dad". Yeah right I thought as he led me to a 2008 copper red new power retractable hard-top MX-5. It didn't take much to convince me, and Tyler and I set up a test drive in a soft top within a week (no PRHTs in yet). With Tyler on my side we convinced Ronda to agree and it was ordered for August delivery. Taking delivery we were told of the Utah Miata Club and I almost lied on the application as it sounded strange to us. A few days later a friendly guy named Mike Bailey called me at work and invited me to a drive-in movie with the club. Ronda did not bite, but Tyler said "If I can drive, I'll go with you". In front of the screen was a line of Miata's with great people, and the rest is history.

Our first trip was to Torrey in September of 2007. Arriving in Torrey around 3 pm, everyone gathered to chat outside the motel rooms, Ronda and I thought more driving sounded fun. We ended up driving through Capitol Reef and to Hite marina, then back. We loved it. Ronda was in.

Backtracking to 1970 (do I hear disco?) after 2 years at the U of U, I was friends with another car lover who took me by his house one day and I saw this very lovely girl and inquired about her. (Ronda and I both grew up in Sugarhouse and attended Highland High.) He said that's my sister, Ronda, and she is 15 years old. Well that wasn't happening then, but we still liked each other and a year later would not be denied and started going out. A year after that, we were married and bought a "235" home in Sandy. We've been married 49 years and I still adore her. We have 3 children (including Amy, a great drive organizer, also in Miata Club) and 10 grandchildren, 9 of them grandsons. We also have 2 adorable great granddaughters. Now I feel old!

In 1977, Ronda started working at the Salt Lake County Library (Whitmore) working on the phone and then worked her way up to IT Manager over the computer systems for all the libraries, finally retiring after 30 years. Quite an accomplishment! She had just retired and was sitting grandson Dylan every day while I worked a few more years at Chevron Oil Refinery as an operator and Maintenance planner, retiring after 26 years in 2011. After raising our children in West Valley, we moved to Suncrest in 2002 and love it here despite the snow. We traded that for no smog.

We kept our 2008 Copper Red for 5 years, selling it to son Tyler when we bought our 2012 PRHT Special edition to get a white Miata. Along the way we also picked up a 1992 Sunburst Yellow originally owned by the Porters. All these are still around; Tyler bought the 1992 and still has it, he traded in the copper and Karen Christensen now drives it. The white SE is now in James Vredeveld's garage. The sale of the 2012 white happened in 2019 when a chance came to buy a 2015 Anniversary edition Soul Red from the owner of Bountiful Mazda with 56 miles on it. It is likely to be the last Miata I'll own, I LOVE this car.



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I do have a personalized plate which I get complimented on ALL THE TIME. It says BYEKIDS and the frame says "Maybe we'll come back" on the bottom. Even a Draper police car gave me a comment from a rolled down window (thought I was being pulled over). It won best personalized plate at the Miatas in Bryce event.

There are so many great memories with the people and cars of the UMC it's hard to pick a favorite. They are from Disneyland, Leavenworth, WA, Bear Valley, CA, Pike's Peak, CO, Oregon Coast, Torrey, UT, on and on and on. For some reason the favorite is probably the silly day in Roswell when Lou, Carol, Ronda and I donned our alien glasses for a fun picture. Probably because Lou Vredevelde, the best friend I've ever had, was with me. I had the honor of being Vice president with Lori Steed in 2011 and club president in 2016.



I love to play the piano, and my next project is tearing into my electronic piano which has so many keys stuck down it really sucks to play. Ronda has a real talent and love for Halloween, her costumes are the best. We love Dixieland jazz and Ronda introduced several of the club members to music festivals in Sacramento, Monterey, Seaside, OR, and Sun Valley. Great times! COVID has certainly slowed down travelling, our main fun, but we've both had a "double shot" so maybe things are looking up. As much as we love the cars, and many in the club say, it's all the great friends we have made that we are truly thankful for. ZOOM ON!



*Thank you Steve and Ronda for all you have done and continue to do for our Miata Family! One of the things I love most about this club is that we are all here to enjoy driving our Miata's and share fun adventures with our likeminded friends. We're all missing each other's company but trying to stay safe through the COVID challenges. Looking forward to better times with lots more drives in the months to come.*



## Mike Bailey...., what can you say? By: Hank Pond

Is there, or has there ever been, a member of The Utah Miata Club that doesn't know Mike?! I hardly think that is possible! Indeed, there are Miata clubs across the United States that know Mike Bailey.

I told him that I would offer "burnt sacrifice" for his speedy recovery and he said that must mean I'll be buying him a rack of ribs when he gets out! All I can say is; "typical" and "absolutely!"

He's like your "fun uncle" who always has some "great idea" that always needs more planning, but you do it anyway because he makes it sound like so much fun! While writing this, I was thinking that Mike doesn't have "a mean bone in his body", but then I realized no one else in this club does either!

THAT is what makes the Utah Miata Club so unique. Good people that are fun and have a good outlook on life. People that have heart felt genuine concern for those around them. During this time of "who knows what's next?", I have witnessed many acts of love and charity. So many people "have taken it upon themselves" and "stepped up" to provide whatever was needed for a specific situation.

We hope that all of you that have had a long 2020 know that you are all in our thoughts and we look forward to "Miata nerding" with you again soon!



# MIATA TALES By: Ken Jaworski

## Bear Country Jamboree Sep 2004—A Blast From The Past!!

Seeing how we're now in the firing up stages of **The Rocky Mountain Road Trip** let's take a look back at a great trip sponsored by the Puget Sound Miata Club. Mike Foster, Ken and Jan Jaworski met with the Washington club in Kalispell, Montana on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2004. We totaled 14 Miata's of all ages with only adventure on our minds. One Miata was driven by two women who wanted to make the trip so bad, they did it without a top, but had many blankets to cover them up. You can see by the attached pictures of the itinerary how organized the Puget Sound Miata Club was. As it turned out the leader was a race driver but was temperate to us vacationing Sunday drivers.

From Kalispell we went north up to "going to the sun highway" in Glacier National Park. With many stops we finally headed out of Glacier NP at Mary's Lake and then headed for Great Falls, Montana.

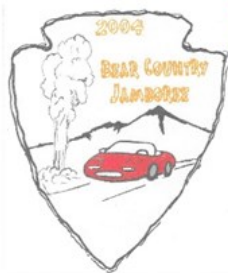
After spending the night at Great Falls we took off for West Yellowstone at a speed somewhat faster than the speed limit. I was really proud of Jan when she said enough is enough and **slowed** to 80mph. When we stopped for a break several of the cars behind thanked her for comfort zoning.

We stayed in West Yellowstone for 2 days exploring Yellowstone NP. We finally headed for Cody, WY. Several of us spent hours at the Buffalo Bill Cody Museum before heading to the motel.

From Cody we went to Cooke City, MT via THE MOST CHALLENGING MOUNTAIN PASS FOR ANY MIATA BUILT.... Chief Joseph Trail called **DEAD INDIAN PASS**. We split the group into 7 cars each. Jan was the designated driver so we picked the second group. Tires really squeal going downhill. Jan was hot and her foot was heavy.... I was the party pooper when I would not let her pass non-Miata's going downhill over double yellow center stripes. They eventually pulled over to let her rip. The two Harleys that started before we did pulled over to the far right and waved us on. When we stopped at the bottom these guys came over and told us how nutz these little cartoon cars and drivers were. From there we went to Red Lodge, MT.



Ken &amp; Jan Jaworski



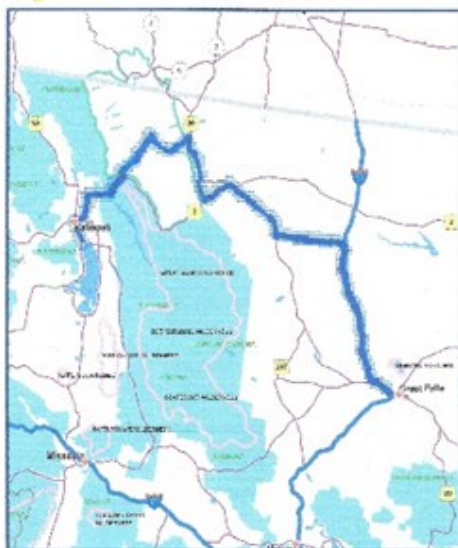
A Tour of  
Glacier and Yellowstone  
National Parks  
September 4th thru 11th, 2004

### Stuff you need to know

- Start each day with a full gas tank. Several of our drives are long enough to be a problem if your tank isn't full.
- Run with parking lights on.
- On long driving legs, your tour leaders may be listening to the stereo, not the CB. If you need to contact us, turn your headlights on. If the car behind you turns on their lights, turn your lights on to pass the signal forward. The leader will then turn the stereo down and the CB up so you can talk.
- When stopping for an animal jam, **DO NOT SET YOUR CAR ALARM!** The "whoop-whoop" will spook the animals.

Bear Country Jamboree

### Day Two, Sunday, Sept 5th Page 5 of 6



### Day Two, Sunday, Sept 5th Page 6 of 6

#### Itinerary

Road	Dir	Miles	Time Sep 05	Distance	Altas Page
Start driving 06:30 AM					
Start trip at Source, MT					
US-2	N	10	8:40 am	10	p.50-51 B-4
National Park Road to Lake McDonald MT	L	33	9:10 am	43	p.50-51 B-4
Visit Lake McDonald MT	L	12	9:49 am	55	p.50-51 B-4
National Park Road	E	4	10:49 am	59	p.50-51 B-4
Local Road to West Glacier Inn, MT	NW	1	10:49 am	60	p.50-51 B-4
Visit West Glacier Inn, MT					
National Park Road to St. Mary MT	SE	1	10:49 am	81	p.50-51 B-4
US-2	L	16	10:49 am	97	p.50-51 B-4
US-2	S	20	12:06 pm	99	p.50-51 B-4
State 49 to East Glacier Park MT	S	12	12:20 pm	111	p.50-51 B-4
Visit East Glacier Park MT					
US-2	E	13	1:30 pm	124	p.50-51 B-4
US-2/US-89	SE	4	1:40 pm	128	p.50-51 B-4
US-89	SE	26	2:06 pm	154	p.50-51 B-4
State 44	E	26	2:40 pm	180	p.50-51 B-4
I-15 to I-9 Exit (S-S) MT	S	27	3:02 pm	207	p.50-51 B-4
Visit I-15 Exit (S-S) MT					
I-15 to I-9 Exit 263, MT	S	38	3:32 pm	245	p.50-51 B-4

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(Continued from page 7)

Didn't realize how big the county mounties were until we stopped for lunch. His hat alone could be a top for a Miata. Having 14 cars pull up to one burger stand was out of the question, so we split up to several lunch counters. That's where we met SIR COUNTY MOUNTY. A couple of Miata's parked facing the wrong way on the street. The drivers quickly cured that indiscretion. He gave us a good warning that we better behave when we crossed back to WY.

It seemed that the cars that we passed going down DEAD INDIAN PASS called the Wyoming County Mounties about those speeding lunatics. What a nice guy ..... and he had a very big gun, too.

Backtracked to Cooke City, MT which is the northeastern gateway to Yellowstone NP. Several went immediately after dinner and entered the park to see if they could see the wolves.

The next day Mike, Jan and I departed for SLC while the Puget Sound Miata Club peeled off to the northwest. What a great trip with another Miata Club doing what we really like ..... ZOOM ZOOM!!!





## Helpful Hints for Drives

Now that we are getting back into top-down driving weather, here is a reminder of how to help make our drives enjoyable and safe. And we are always looking for volunteers to lead a drive!

### Drive Leaders:

- Have a drivers meeting before starting the drive and review:
  - ⇒ The route, general directions, and stops along the route
  - ⇒ Remind everyone to turn on FRS radios and channel used (usually 5.5)
  - ⇒ If someone does not have a radio, place them towards the front of the group.
  - ⇒ Invite/select a sweep car
- When planning the route incorporate right hand turns instead left hand turns whenever possible.
- If possible, pre-test your drive for timing and road conditions. (Can also use Google Maps to calculate drive times and road conditions.)
- When planning the route (or during the drive) look for safe areas to regroup in case the group gets separated.
- If you need to pull over to regroup make sure the pull off area will accommodate the entire group.
- When reentering the road from a pull out, wait for Sweep to confirm that it is safe to pull out.
- For longer drives, plan a pit stop about every 1 to 1 ½ hours, especially during the first leg of the drive.
- Alternately, via radio, call out upcoming pit stop areas and request feedback if anyone needs to stop.
- Call out items that may impact the group; rocks in the road, or cattle, bicyclists and people on the edge of the road, etc.



### Drive Sweep:

- Inform the Drive Leader if the group gets separated.
- If the group has pulled over to regroup, inform the leader/everyone when it is clear for the entire group to pull back onto the road.
- The Sweep car pulls out first when pulling back onto the road, with everyone else pulling out at the same time.

### All drive Participants:

- Arrive with a full tank of gas especially for longer drives.
- Bring a FRS radio.
- Listen for directions, warnings, possible stops.
- Notify Drive Leader if you are leaving the drive early.
- Pull out as a group when the Sweep confirms it is safe to pull out from a regrouping stop.
- Utilize double left hand turn lanes to help ensure all cars get through a green left hand turn light, then merge back into a single lane.



**January Election & Planning Meeting postponed to June or July**

**Apr 10th (2nd Saturday due to Easter):** Monthly lunch & meeting (West Bountiful Park, Trappers Loop & North Ogden Canyon), Doyle & Val (refer to page 2)

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

**June 5th:** Monthly lunch & meeting (Wasatch Back)

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

**July 15—18:** Explore Oregon (Eugene, OR. Sponsored by Willamette Valley Miata Club) see WV Club website for details at [www.oregonmx5.com](http://www.oregonmx5.com)

**July 31st—Aug 6th:** Rocky Mountain Road Trip –Roger Heath  
[www.utahmiataclub.org](http://www.utahmiataclub.org)





# Candid Camera



**SMILE  
YOU'RE  
ON  
CANDID  
CAMERA**

