



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



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## **The Journey is the Destination**

**By: Mark Vaughn, President**

October was quite the month of a “journey is the destination” as we traveled to Granbury, Texas for the Lone Star MIATA round up. The Lone Star MIATA club from Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas hosted the rally. The Lone Star Miata club was a gracious host and the town of Granbury, Texas was a fascinating location. The drives throughout the local area offered interesting hilly green scenery and destinations. It was on one these drives to Dublin, Texas that I learned the story of Dr. Pepper at the original bottling plant.

Nine cars from the Utah MIATA club traveled to the rally via several different routes. Part of the group traveled through Albuquerque, New Mexico to take in a couple of days of the Balloon Festival. The Balloon Festival is truly something worth seeing if you have not been. Sometime in the future I will go back.

If you missed this year’s travel to Texas and would like to have another reason for the journey, next October the Blue Bonnet MIATA club from San Antonio, Texas is hosting a rally in Fredericksburg, Texas. At this time Susan and I are planning to journey to Fredericksburg for the rally, so if you are interested traveling along let us know.

As always, whether it is rain or shine, daylight or dark, top up or down, in a Miata MX-5 the journey is the destination.



## November Meeting Information

**Date & Time:** Saturday, November 3, 2018  
11:30 am  
**Location:** Red Robin restaurant  
316 E Winchester St, Murray, UT 84107

No drive is planned at this time, but bring an idea if you want to zoom somewhere.

## December Holiday Social

This year the Utah Miata Club will be visiting a new venue for the Christmas Social. We do miss the wonderful hospitality of Mike and Lynn Bailey, and since they have a new residence which will not accommodate the huge gathering we are going to the Benvegne Center at St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. **The party will be Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30 p.m.**

**The Benvegne Center address 1438 East 4915 South, Holliday**, and is just off 1300 East and just 2 blocks north of Van Winkle Parkway. Going north on 1300 East the second right is Kings Row. Turn right heading east. The parking lot is the first right on Kings Row. There will be plenty of parking for everyone.

The dinner will be provided by the club. Cheryl Schaefer will coordinate and prepare the dinner. You may bring a dessert to share. As always we will have our "white elephant" gift exchange. So, if you would like to take part in this exceptional exchange, don't forget your gift.

**Please RSVP to Susan Vaughn by phone or text to 801-641-7213. We need this information by December 1<sup>st</sup>.**





# Birthdays & Memberships

## Expiring Soon

LEONARD & SHAUNA MILLGATE	11/30/2018
JAMES & HILLARY VREDEVELD	11/30/2018

## Removed From Roster

SPENCER MANN	5/31/2018
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## New Members

NAME	YEAR	COLOR
TYLER STARK	2017RF	RED



## Membership Expired

JOHN & CINDY COX	9/30/2018
THOMAS & LAUREL DRYSDALE	8/31/2018
JOSEPH & JENNIFER EAMES	7/31/2018
WAYLON & VALERIE GOEBEL	9/30/2018
CHUCK & DIANE GRAHAM	6/30/2018
RICHARD & CHARLENE GREGOR	9/30/2018
ROGER & PERLY HEATH	9/30/2018
WAYNE & SUZANE HEAGER	9/30/2018
KENT & DIANE HOUSLEY	10/31/2018
MARK & SHAWNA MIDGLEY	9/30/2018
WILLIAM PAYNE	8/31/2018
JARED & KRISTI SMITH	7/31/2018

STEVE BECKSTEAD	2 Nov
DREW WILSON	3 Nov
MARGIE NEWSON	6 Nov
DOYLE STURM	15 Nov
GEORGE CHASE	17 Nov
CHUCK GRAHAM	25 Nov
JIM NEWSON	25 Nov
JANET ANDERSON	28 Nov
AMY CHRISTOPHER	29 Nov

## 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. It is \$25 if you have the newsletter e-mailed to you or \$45 if you would like a hard copy sent by standard mail. A Dual Membership (for yourself *and* a spouse, sibling or significant other) is \$35. You can also pay your dues online with PayPal on our website; [www.utahmiataclub.org](http://www.utahmiataclub.org). This method is \$27 (to cover 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.treasuremc@icloud.com](mailto:sec.treasuremc@icloud.com).

## Texas Miata Roundup Report:

By Mike Bailey

The Texas Miata Roundup was a lot of fun for our group. Most of us traveled together to Farmington, New Mexico and then on to Albuquerque, NM for a couple days at the Balloon Festival. The first day at the festival was a lot of fun for us - even after waking up before 5:00 am to head over to the festival to watch the balloons go up. This was a fabulous site to say the least. I have been to several balloon festivals in my life but none compares to this! Hundreds of balloons of all types, shapes, images, and sizes. It was so awesome! My camera SD card was full after I took 20 photos as I forgot to check the capacity of it before I left home. However, I was able to get a Canon 'loaner' camera from the Canon Camera tent at the Festival, and after taking 250+ photos at the event they gave me the SD card. What a deal this was for free.



The next day we did the same only getting up a little later. But the weather was very windy so they didn't launch the balloons until after and we hit the road for our next stop at Lubbock, Texas. We stopped at a cool Route 66 Museum in Santa Rosa, NM and looked around and took photos. Later the next day I got a text from Steve Beckstead along with a photo, and they, along with the Newson's, who went a different route leaving a day after us, had stopped there as well. What a coincidence that they went to the same place where we stopped.



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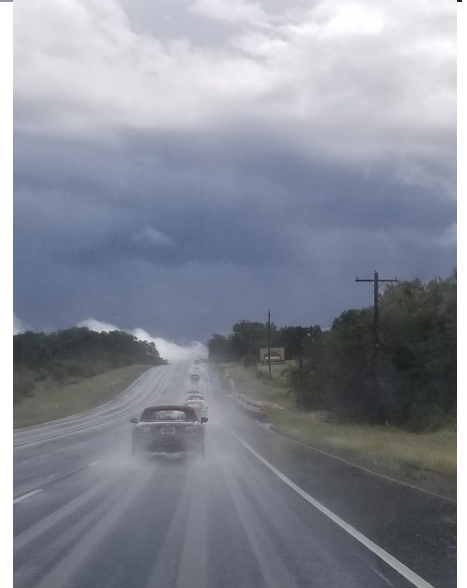


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We then headed out from there and went to Tucumcari, Texas. Mark Vaughn lead us, as he wanted to take in this part of Route 66 along our route. This ended up being lots of fun and we passed by many old Route 66 hotels, gas stations, and restaurants that were abandoned and relics of the past. Some of the old motels were still in business. I got lots of photos of those places. We did stop at a nice little restaurant there to have lunch.



We finally arrived Thursday, the eleventh, at Granbury and checked into the Hilton Garden Inn for three days at the event. It was a beautiful hotel on the lake and very picturesque. We met up with about 240 people who attended the event, which was over 130 Miatas. A lot of the people we saw had attended various Miatas in Utah events so it was nice for me to renew acquaintances. I saw my good friend, George Lucas, from the Bluebonnet Miata Club, whom I hadn't seen in many years. Probably since back at our event in Moab 10 years ago. It was a fun reunion for me. I always like to see my Miata friends from across the country as it is always a highlight for me. We signed up for a couple drives for Friday and Saturday, and our Utah group was split on going on different drives for both days.



It was raining a lot during our time at the event and on the drives which was a dampener, but we made the best of it and had some fun. There were flash flood warnings and even a tornado watch while we were at the event. They had good food at the banquet and most everyone won a prize that was given out on the final night. Mark had a chance to make a short presentation and promote our upcoming Miatas in Moab VI, and I made a statement to the group on the upcoming Miataland Trip to Italy, both which will be in 2020. Both events drew a lot of interest from the group and I was asked many questions afterwards. I ended up staying quite awhile after the banquet to answer questions and also visiting some of my out of state friends before saying goodnight.



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The next morning we headed to San Antonio to spend two days there. After arriving we went downtown to the Riverwalk and ate lunch at a nice Mexican restaurant on the Riverwalk. The next morning we went to the Alamo and saw the sights there. It was rain on and off while in San Antonio, and the entire time in Texas and New Mexico. We didn't have one day of 'top down' driving, sunshine, or blue skies until on the way home when we reached the Colorado border. After a night stay in Artesia, NM we headed to Santa Fe. Susan had to fly home as her daughter Christy was real sick, so Mark took her to the airport.

We did make a stop in Roswell, NM to the UFO/Alien Museum. Doyle bought me a baby green alien to go with my beloved Alienanna, and Val bought me an Alien Nascar Racing Driver's License. We surprised the group that left earlier that morning, .As we drove through Roswell, upon seeing their Miatas at the museum we stopped to see our group. Leaverich's and Mark then headed home while the rest of us went to Santa Fe. In Santa Fe we all had dinner and toured the old town area. We were pretty tired of the rain and bad weather so Nicholls and us headed home early the next morning. The others stayed an extra night in Santa Fe. In Colorado we took Hwy. 114 and Hwy. 50 which was beautiful and scenic ,finally with sunshine and blue skies. However, too cold in the mountains for top down .

Mechlings and Vredevelts got to see their kids in Texas. Robert and Sharon took a MSV (Miata Support Vehicle) for this trip as their Miata is in the shop getting a new engine. Fortunately they were able to take stuff we had purchased home with them for several of us. We did have lots of fun with our Utah Club friends and we all put on over 3,000 miles on our Miatas.

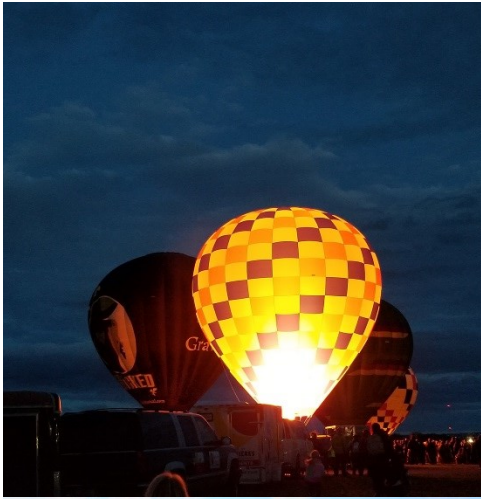




## Albuquerque Balloon Festival

By: Mike Bailey

A stop at the Albuquerque Balloon Festival was well worth it as it was an excellent event to attend. As mentioned in the Texas Roundup report we spent two days there but only saw the balloons lift off on the first day as the it was too windy on our second day. Mark Vaughn's excellent driving and our early departure got us to the event quickly by avoiding a lot of anticipated traffic. It was an exciting morning spent there among all the excitement of the balloon lift off. Attached are some photos of some amazing balloons. Interesting reactions from our group on watching the balloons, especially the balloons that you normally don't see; Yoda and Darth Vader, a pink elephant and pig, green frog and others.





## Miataland Italy for 2020 By: Mike Bailey



In September's Newsletter we announced a new *"Bucket List"* item for our club to do; a trip to **Miataland, Italy**, located in the northern mountains between Rome and Venice. The resort features 7 Miata themed rooms for guests to stay at. Interest is high for participating in this trip among Miata people. I mentioned it at the Texas Miata Roundup and had at least 10 couples talk to me with interest in going on this to celebrate a wedding anniversary or just because they have wanted to travel to Italy. *After all, how often do you get to drive a Miata in Italy!* Not only are there fantastic sights to see in Venice and Rome but the **8-Day Italian Sojourn Viking Ocean Cruise** has many exciting ports-of-call, besides these two mentioned. This will be a 'must-do' trip for travel and Miata enthusiasts.

Several club members went to a local Morris Murdock Viking Cruise open house this past week and learned about the ocean cruises and what their ships have to offer. They are as nice as the river cruise ships but with even more amenities included free, including shore excursions as well. It is a good value for the dollars spent as they include everything. Karen, our club member and travel agent, will be providing us with more information soon on all the details and pricing on the cruise, land tours, and Miataland costs. Already the V2 (Veranda) cabins have been sold out for the 2020 cruise. According to the Viking representative rooms will sell out quickly so we will need to book soon.

Donn Cichocki and I will soon be sending out a letter to all our club members, and the Facebook page for this event is almost ready to go live with all the details. Karen also has a flyer prepared that we are happy to send to anyone with some of the details. Watch for our new UMC website page on this as well. For club members that went on the Viking River Cruise we will be getting a 'past cruiser' discount plus early bookings may receive a \$100.00 discount. Only a \$500.00 deposit per person is required to reserve your spot. **August 26, 2020** is the date of the anticipated cruise. It will also include 3-4 days at Miataland where we can drive the owners Miatas on Italian country roads, on organized drives. Read more details from the September Newsletter on the ports of call and what we will be seeing. Be sure to check it out for *"The Trip of a Lifetime"*.



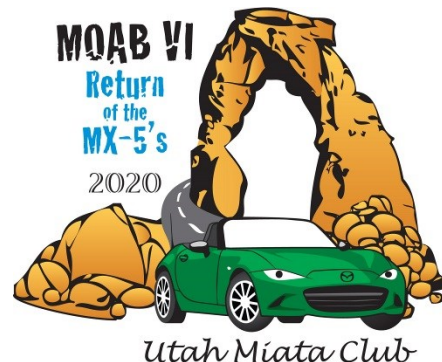


## Miatas In Moab VI By: Mike Bailey

As you all know by now it has been announced that we will be having another Miatas in Utah event in May 2020. We are getting excited to host another event in scenic Moab, Utah, which is 'red rock' country in Utah. It will be officially called Miatas in Moab VI (6). It will be our 8th major club sponsored event in our state where we invite out-of-state Miata club members. It has been six years since we've been back to Moab and it will be eight years by the time it kicks off.

With changing venues to Bryce and then two years later at Deer Valley, many Miata people who enjoyed coming to our event in Moab kept asking for us to do another one. It is still in the planning stage and if you want to be on the committee please contact our club president Mark Vaughn. We welcome any new committee members or club members who want to participate in planning and working at this event. A date and venue will soon be narrowed down by the committee. Once we figure out the basic expenses that we expect to have for the event, we will start to advertise it. We will also limit the Miatas and attendees at this event because a crowd of 300 Miatas and 500+ people are too much to handle.

An event logo has already been made and we even had a digitized sew out for apparel and shirts for the event. It will be fun to plan and take part in another Miatas in Moab.



## 2018 Calendar of Events

by Steve Beckstead



- November 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Monthly lunch and meeting (Red Robin, 316 E Winchester St, Murray) – Mark Vaughn
- December 8<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Party with Utah Miata Club (Benvegne Center at St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church) - Susan Vaughn

## 2019 Calendar coming soon

- January 5<sup>th</sup>:** Monthly lunch and meeting (Location TBD - Date Tentative) – Mark Vaughn
- January 19<sup>th</sup>:** Planning and Election Meeting - BE THINKING! (Date Tentative) – Mark Vaughn

## Miata Club Apparel & Car Magnets by: Mike Bailey

**Club Apparel with the Official Club Logo and also the Mountains Logo is available at anytime by individual ordering.** Get your **Club Jackets** now for Fall and Winter and cold Spring mornings and evenings. Also comes in handy if it is raining. Fits conveniently behind your seat. Any jacket or shirt or other apparel item comes with an embroidered club logo, either the Official Logo, or Mountains Logo for an additional charge. Comes in several different colors in men's and ladies sizing. Popular year round is the blue **Denim Logo Shirt**. Comes in long or short sleeve, in men's and ladies sizing, and also in faded light blue or a darker blue. Ballcaps or any other hats are also available in an assortment of colors, as well as Sweatshirts; Full Zip, 1/4 zip, pullovers, crew neck, etc. and T-Shirts. The "Long Live the Roadster" shirt with the ND Miata image is available in Polo or T-Shirts. **Polo Shirts** can be made in any color with either club logo as well. **Car Magnets** are great to display on your Miata during drives or at events. Cost is \$25.00 per pair of two magnets and now come with the 4th Generation MX-5 in either RF or Ragtop Miata on them, and also in choice of color to match your Miata. You are also welcome to provide your own apparel to have a logo put on. We also will embroider a club logo on a luggage bag for you. Call Mike for pricing on individual items.

Call or contact Mike Bailey with orders at 801-597-1456 or email at: [mike@mikebaileyprinting.com](mailto:mike@mikebaileyprinting.com).





# Candid Camera

by Mike Bailey





# TEXAS MIATA RALLY VANITY PLATES

By: Mike Bailey

