



The Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club



Yeah! Spring!

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The Journey is the Destination

By: Mark Vaughn, President

Susan and I managed a journey to Boise, Idaho in early March between the storms. The Miata stayed in the garage as we took our MKZ, not trusting the weather, to Boise to hear Mandy Harvey in concert. Mandy is a truly amazing singer who happens to be deaf and her concert is truly a fascinating mind bending experience. If you might be interested in experiencing one of her concerts she will be back out west on October the 12th at The Smith Center in Las Vegas.

The trip to Boise was our first during the winter. The roads were clear and the skies were blue with snow cover most everywhere. Very different from our past summer time travels and very scenic. I would definitely do it again if I can stay out of storms. I would not want to be between Snowville and Burley in a snowstorm in any car.

Susan and I are working out the final plans for exploring far western Canada and can hardly wait to start the journey with our Miata friends. In addition we have encore journey to Granby, Texas to finish out the year, not to mention all of the shorter day trips and club activities with our Miata friends.

All of that said, whether the top is up or down the journey is the destination.



Date & Time: April 7, 2018 - 9:00 a.m.
Where: Jim's Family Restaurant - 801-446-7670
Location: 1728 W. Park Ave., Riverton, UT



Our **April Club Meeting** will be held at **Jim's Family Restaurant** in the private room to the right when walking into the restaurant. This month we will have a **Breakfast** instead of a luncheon. **Please be there by 9:00 a.m.** We will eat and have our monthly meeting. After the meeting our monthly activity will be to visit **Kirkham's Motorsports** in North Provo, Utah. We will drive to Utah County per directions below. Lou has a plan for a short drive back home after the Kirkham visit for those interested.

This is a company that specializes in building Cobra replications. They are famous for the Stainless Steel, aluminum bodied or 'Chrome' looking Cobra. They will custom make any kind of cobra that you want and they are all high performance vehicles. They specialize in the 427's and 289's. *You can have one for just under \$100,000.00.* They have built over 800 replica cobras since 1994. We went to visit their company 10 years ago, in March 2008. We decided that it has been awhile since we did this activity and we have lots of new members since then who have not been there, so thought it would be fun to go again. It is an interesting story on how they got in the business of doing this and when they get their aluminum sheet metal pieces from that they fabricate and build these cobras with. This will be explained when we visit them. They also build custom classic cars like their Copper 1940 Ford replica. We plan to be at Kirkham's around noon or before. The tour will take about an hour or less. We hope to have a good crowd of members participate in this.

Directions for route we will take: We will line up in the parking lot and go to 2700 West in Riverton and head south to Bangerter Highway (approx. 13800 So.) We will take Bangerter eastbound to I-15 and head south on I-15 and exit at the 1600 No. Provo exit by the Timpanogos Harley Davidson store and go west to Geneva Road. From there we will head south to 1680 North and go left (or east) to Kirkham's.

 **KIRKHAM**
motorsports



Birthdays & Memberships

Expiring Soon

ERNEST & NANCY BENTLEY	4/30/2018
MICHAEL & FRANCIS HUTTON	4/30/2018
MARK & DEBBIE SHACKELFORD	4/30/2018

New Members

JIM & MARILYN BICKLEY	2016 CLUB	BLACK
MARCUS & LACEY OWENS	2014 CLUB	RED
GREG P. HALEY	2015	WHITE

Membership Expired

BILL & JANET ANDERSON	3/31/2018
DAVE & LISA ARELLANO	1/31/2018
DON BLUMENTHAL	2/28/2018
KARLEEN CALLAHAN	2/28/2018
SANDRA CHRISTENSEN	2/28/2018
TODD & AMY CHRISTOPHER	2/28/2018
GASTON CIZINSKY	3/31/2018
JEAN GLINES	2/28/2018
FRANK & VICKY HOUSER	3/31/2018
ROBERT & SHARON LEONARD	1/31/2018
MARK & VICKY VAN SICKLE	1/31/2018

Removed From Roster

DALE RIM	12/31/2017
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TERI BLACK	27 Apr
GARY COLLINGS	21 Apr
LAUREL DRYSDALE	12 Apr
CHARISSE FURGUSON	10 Apr
MARK FURGUSON	19 Apr
WILLY GURLOCH	11 Apr
RICHARD GREGOR	13 Apr
MICHAEL HUTTON	4 Apr
DOUGLAS KLUENDER	8 Apr
JOE LEVERICH	16 Apr
SHARON MECHLING	25 Apr
ANNETTE NIELSEN	24 Apr
SUSAN VAUGHN	14 Apr
LOU VREDEVELD	30 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. 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. 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.treasmc@icloud.com.

Miata of the Month

by Mike Bailey



Miata of the Month is a 1997 "M" Edition Marina Green. This is the same model that our President, Mark and Susan Vaughn own. The Porters also owned one back in the day as well as several others that have been in the Utah Club. **This Miata has only 125 original actual miles on it. Yes! 125 Miles!** Everything in it is stock and has the 1.8 liter engine with a 5-speed manual transmission. It was the last year of the NA or First Generation Miata production. It was the only special edition Miata for that year. It has the tan leather interior. It also has the original factory Hard Top with stand, installation kit, mud guards, original key and pen gift set that came with it from the factory for the 'M' Edition. Also included is the owners manual and MSRP window sticker and much, much more. Everything is still in original wrappers.

The original owners were Miata fans and had this car stored from new in a climate controlled garage in California and drove it twice a year on a private road to keep the fluids flowing throughout the systems and also so it would not pick up any rock chips or debris from the road. The car still has it's original tires. This is the last chance you will probably every get to own a *NEW 1997 Miata M Edition* and probably the lowest mileage on any 1997 Miata in existence. It would be a real show stopper at any Miata meet.

Ok, the question is; How much is this beauty? The answer is that it is selling for \$29,995. Anyone interested in this can contact Hayes Classic Auto Sales in Roseville, California 🌀

Club Caribbean Cruise Report

by Mike Bailey

The Caribbean Club Cruise that has been planned for a year took place end of February. We only had a few members participate, but those that went had lots of fun together. We spent 8 days on this cruise with *Royal Caribbean Liberty of the Seas* ship which departed from Galveston, Texas. Mechlings, Porters, Baileys and friends of Dave and Ana, Probie and Jesse Meza participated along with several couples from Mike's 50 year Provo high school graduation class. We had a fun day in Galveston planned by Robert and Sharon with a trip to the Aquarium, an IMAX movie of the Wonders of the Ocean, and an indoor Rainforest complete with exotic animals like sloths and bats with 3 foot wing spans, the largest bats in the world. We saw some incredible animals there! We then boarded the ship for two days relaxing at sea and eating tons of wonderful food and getting entertained constantly. We went to Roatan, Honduras and Costa Maya and Cozumel, Mexico and had another day at sea on the way back. In Costa Maya our tour got cancelled because one of the Mexican Ferry's that was suppose to take us to an island across the bay had an explosion on it which hurt several tourists. We just rented a shuttle to take us to the beach for \$4.00 each and saved lots of money and still had the same amount of fun. We were also reimbursed for the shore excursion. We had a great time together at each ports of call as well as on the ship. Robert and I played miniature golf and we enjoyed exotic sunsets each evening. We all purchased jewelry like Tanzanite in Cozumel for a real good deal for our wives and Mechlings got a new diamond for one of Sharon's rings. Thanks to Ana and her Spanish, it helped us to get good deals by bargaining with the vendors. Porters and us took a carriage ride around the city in a horse and buggy which was fun. We got lots of fun in the sun and enjoyed the beaches and relaxation time.





Member Spotlight

Robert Olsen

by Carol Lynn Vredeveld



It is my pleasure to feature Robert Olsen as our spotlight person this month. Robert is one of those fun people that always has a smile on his face at every Miata event he participates in. You can certainly tell that he enjoys driving his beautiful 2016. Who knows, we may have missed out on having this enthusiastic Miata owner in our club if Valerie hadn't mentioned how much she enjoys her one of a kind, white special edition, "Evil Twin" (that's a whole other story) Miata and our club events to him. It sounds like Robert really likes spending time outdoors and there is no better way to do that than driving your Miata, "top down" on our beautiful Utah backroads with newly found friends! I think his sister Marilyn enjoys it almost as much as he does.

Enjoy Roberts's own version of how he became a Miata lover as follows:

My Miata is a 2016 Grand Touring in Blue Mica. I've been in the Miata Club for almost two years. I do not have a personalized license plate yet, maybe later.

I found out about the Miata Club when I was talking with a friend at work (Valerie Francis). I asked Valerie what her weekend plans were and she said a drive with the Miata Club. I said oh, you have a Miata? We talked about her cars and the Club. I then mentioned to Valerie that I had been thinking of getting a Miata for a long time. I'm sure Valerie thought I would never leap over to the dark side and get a Miata.

I have owned two Mini Coopers in the past and I was thinking of getting a smaller car but wanted something different. I had been saving and thinking about it for a long time. It was so hard to decide what model to get, a new or used one, stick or automatic. I really had no idea what Miata's were like.

I purchased my Miata almost two years ago. I just walked into the show room at D. Dahle Mazda in Murray. I thought, yes a blue Mazda Miata, I'll take that one.

I grew up in Terra by Dugway, Utah and attended school in Dugway. For those of you that don't know where Terra is, it's at the base of Johnson Pass, one of the Miata's Clubs drives.

I went to Utah Technical College in Provo and got a business degree. I now live in Murray Utah.

I work for ARUP labs in the Business Development department. I'm a Client Trainer and I work on bringing in New Clients and support the Web portal. I've worked for ARUP for 36-years.

I am currently single; but I met my (former) spouse when I was at Utah Technical College. We were married for thirteen fun filled years. Margie and I are still close friends. We share two children and three grandchildren. We often share family dinners and vacations together.



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I do enjoy a variety of recreational activities, especially the Miata Club drives and I often bring my sister Marilyn along with me. We both enjoy the drives and have often commented on how nice the Miata Club people are and think of the day drives with the club as (Mini Vacations).

I also like to go camping and hiking with friends and family. I used to be a private river runner guide on the Green and Colorado Rivers. One of my favorite stretches is Westwater on the Colorado River; it contains class III and IV rapids. I only flipped the raft once on the rapid called "Skull".

I'm a former runner and have completed one Marathon in Dallas Texas. I used to be a downhill and cross country skier. On weekends when the weather is nice, I like to go bike riding with my family.

I can't say I have a favorite Miata story as of yet other than, one of the drives goes right past the place I grew up in Terra.

The other drive over Nebo Loop starts in Nephi Canyon right where my grandparents once lived. All of the drives have been very fun! It's a small effort at times.

I have really enjoyed my association with the Miata Club. I would like to thank club members for their welcoming spirit and their work and dedication, you make the Club GREAT!!!

Please introduce yourselves to Robert and his sister Marilyn if you haven't already. We are excited for a new year of adventures to share with them and the rest of our awesome members. Happy Zooming!!



2018 Calendar of Events

submitted and updated by **Steve Beckstead**



April 7th: Monthly lunch and meeting (Jim's Restaurant Riverton) Kirkham Auto tour (Mike Bailey)

May 5th: Monthly lunch and meeting (Red Robin Murray) – Mark Vaughn

June 2nd: Monthly lunch and meeting (Location TBD) – Steve and Kathy Nielsen Drive

June 22nd: Mark and Susan's 2 Week Canadian Adventure – Vaughns for Info

Exploring Far Western Canada

Taking your Miata on a cruise by: Mark and Susan Vaughn

For further details please check out the posting on our website: www.utahmiataclub.org



The Great Canadian Adventure, Part 2 by Susan Vaughn

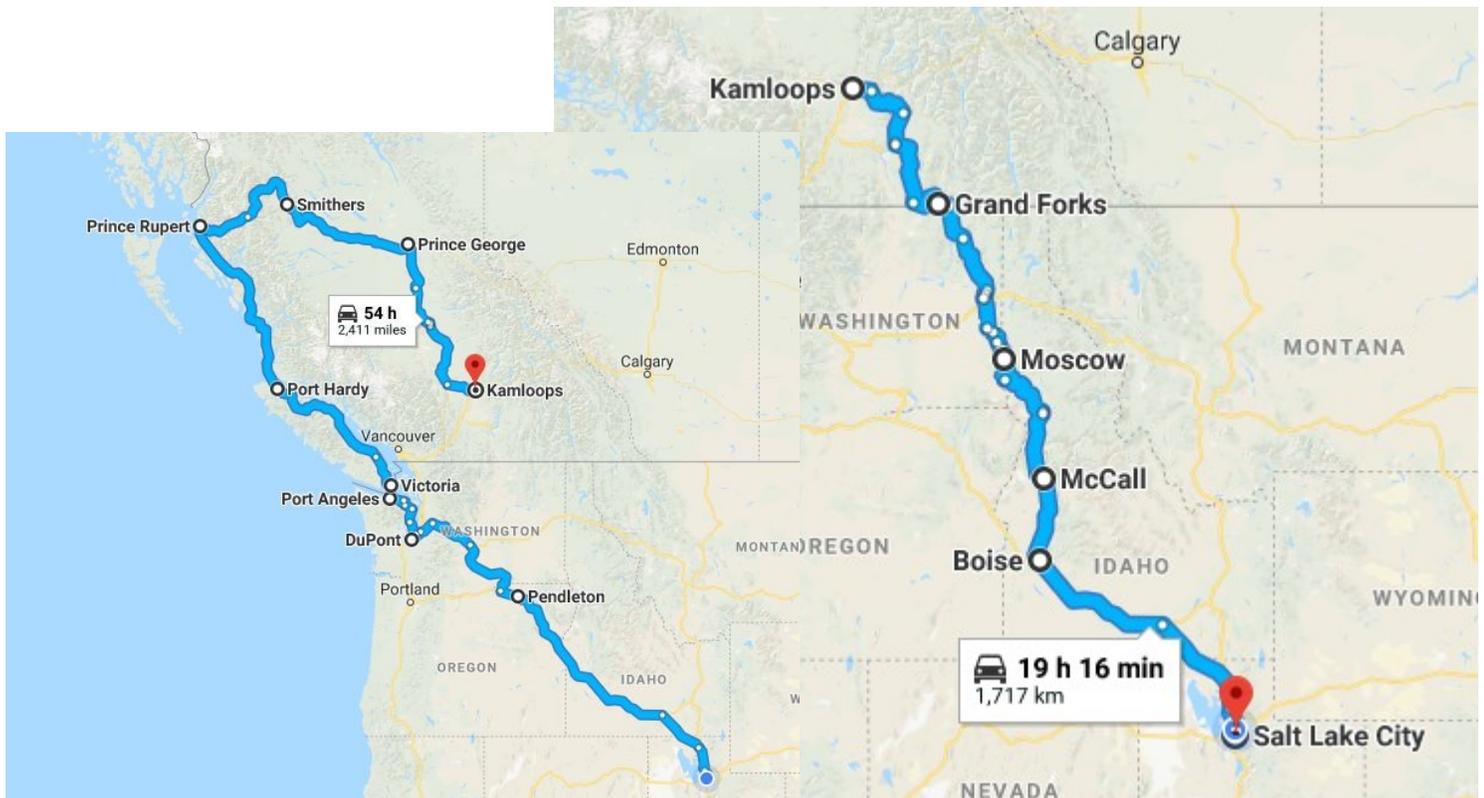
Exploring Far Western Canada...

Taking your Miata on a cruise...

This Miata adventure explores western Canada via Mount Rainer National Park in the state of Washington. The United States will be left via ferry from Port Angeles, Washington, to Victoria, British Columbia. The adventure will continue to the northern end of Vancouver Island to Port Hardy, British Columbia. A second ferry ride of 318 miles will begin from Port Hardy through the inside passage to Prince Rupert, British Columbia. From Prince Rupert, the adventure will wind its way back to the United States at Grand Forks, British Columbia, at the Washington State border.

Total estimated driving miles: 3,276
Total ferryboat miles: 340
This trip does require a current passport.
Travel Dates: June 22nd through July 4th, 2018

If you are interested, please contact Mark and Susan Vaughn for further information.



Miata Concepts

by Mike Bailey

As the Miata Generations have changed through the years, so have the various Miata Concept designs. This page features many different Miata conceptions from first generation thru fourth generation. These concepts feature different body kits which some are also available to change your Miata's look.



Ragtops to Ridges is the Convertible Chronicles of the Utah Miata Club and is the Club's official newsletter. It is published monthly and presents information on Club news, activities and events. All information and photos are the property of the Utah Miata Club.

President: Mark Vaughn Vice President: Robert Mechling Secretary: Jim Newson Treasurer: Margie Newson

Directors: Lou Vredeveld, Ali Bazzaz, Joe Leverich Web Master/ Newsletter Editor: Doyle Sturm

Media Coordinator: Mike Bailey Scribe: Sharon Mechling

New Miata Club Shirt Idea?

by Mike Bailey

I have an idea I want to put out to all the Utah Club Members. I'd like to make a club shirt similar in design to the popular *Hawaiian Miata Shirt* that Tom Thompson from the San Diego Miata Club designed and came out with. This would be particular to our Utah Club and could feature our cars or logos, Utah features, etc. I have an associate I work with in my business who is involved in making these kind of shirts particularly for sports teams and other groups, clubs, or organizations. The shirt can be designed anyway one wishes it to be and can be printed using a dye-sublimation process that prints the entire area of the shirt. It works best on a 100% white polyester material, such as I have been doing on Polos or T-Shirts for many of the Utah Club event shirts the past couple years. I think more members prefer the polo style shirt. A Polo style shirt actually works the best and is easier to make than a button up shirt, but we could do either. We need to come up with a design with photos, illustrations or logos. The images can repeat over the entire shirt like the Miata Hawaiian shirt. Another photo with this article is the shirt that you have seen Chuck and Diane Graham, our San Diego members have worn to the luncheons.

Please let me know your ideas on this and we can discuss it at our meetings and come up with something. The cost is relatively low on producing it and it would sell for about \$50.00 each and can be made in

men's and ladies sizes. We could also probably sell it nationally to other clubs or miata groups as a fundraiser for our club or if there is not interest in our club doing that, then I would probably promote it myself and take all the risk. Mainly, I would be interested in seeing how many of our club members would be interested in purchasing one. If you are interested in getting one, please let me know.



Candid Camera

by Mike Bailey

This month's Candid Camera shots are of groups of our club members from various trips and events from 2010-2017. We have had lots of fun trip and events and looking forward to many in the future.

