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PRESIDENT:

MIKE BAILEY

VICE PRESIDENT:

ROBERT MECHLING

SECRETARY:

JIM NEWSON

TREASURER:

MARGIE NEWSON

DIRECTORS:

STEVE BECKSTEAD, HANK POND

MARK VAUGHN



JANUARY 2017

THE CONVERTABLE CHRONICLES OF THE UTAH MIATA CLUB

FROM THE TOP DOWN

BY MIKE BAILEY



For my last Top Down President's Message before the new year's election meeting and the new president that will take over this next month, I have a lot of sadness in my heart as one of my best friends, Gordon Nicholl, was in a tragic accident five days before Christmas and is in the ICU at the Murray IHC Hospital. I am sure that most of you have heard about this by now through social media channels and by word of mouth. Although Lynn and I are in close touch daily with Jackie and their daughter, Kristi, I am at a loss on what to say or do except to pray for blessings from our Father in Heaven for his healing grace and mercy for the Nicholl family and for Gordy to get better and get his health and strength back and become healed from this tragic accident. It has been 'touch and go' with his condition on a daily basis. Please everyone, keep Gordy, Jackie and their family in your hearts and prayers at this time. I know all of you love Gordy as much as we do and will be praying for his recovery. I have suddenly had a feeling come over me about how fragile life can be sometimes and that we should not take for granted how special life and our experiences are and how much we should all treasure our lives and friends and family as things and situations can change in an instant if we are not careful. A simple instance of taking your eyes off the road for a second while driving or not paying attention while hanging Christmas lights or anything like this can change your life forever. Please everyone, be extra careful and mindful in all you do and be aware of everything around you. I have a photo tribute to Gordy featured in this newsletter representing some of the great times we have had at club outings and events. Please keep the Nicholls in your mind.

It is time to wish everyone a **Happy New Year** and hopefully 2017 will be a very good year for all of us and the Utah Miata Club.

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From the Top Down (Continued From Page 1)

We will be starting our 26th year as an organized sports car club with a lot of history in the making having taken place over the past 25 years. I plan to hand out club Anniversary pins to members during our Election / Planning Meeting on January 21st. I hope we have a good turnout for this important meeting as we will recognize some of the longstanding members of the club at this time. Our annual Elections will take place this night and I will be 'passing the torch' so to speak, to another competent club member to take over as President. It has been a great year for me as President and I want to thank everyone for supporting me in this position and helping out when asked to do so. The volunteer spirit of club members is what makes this club so great. After the elections, we will then have our yearly Planning Meeting to plan our major events, drives, and activities for the year. I know we all look forward to this annual event to start the new year off right. It will again be at Bountiful Mazda at 5:00 pm with a pizza dinner so plan on coming. Information on this in this newsletter and on the website. Please let Bountiful Mazda know how much we appreciated them as club sponsors.

Another activity that I would like to do in January is one that got cancelled last year is a trip to see the Midway Ice Castles in Midway, Utah. Due to warmer temperatures which caused the ice to melt unexpectedly last year we had to cancel this event. This year I would like to do this on Wednesday, January 11th and meet up there at 6:00-6:30 pm. It is very inexpensive and will be a real delight for us to see as a group. See details on this in this newsletter and also on the website.

Our annual Christmas Party was a real hit this year with a record turnout of members and the main meal of stuffed pork loin roast catered by Moon Dogs was excellent. Be sure to read my report about it. I want to thank everyone that came and brought some delicious food to share with everyone, and especially Jim Newson for making arrangements with his friend Steve, from Moon Dogs. As usual the White Elephant gift exchange did not disappoint with some excellent gifts. There were two hand painted and framed gifts, both with a Miata theme, brought by Amber Lee Johanson, our Viking Cruise Rep from Morris Murdock Travel and her friend, Margel. The paintings were made from Miata photos on our website. They went around the maximum of times as they were very popular and Terri Black and my wife Lynn ended up with them. I was very excited about this and our painting will hang in my downstairs office with my other Miata related memorabilia.

I am looking forward to a great year with the Utah Miata Club. I'm sure one of the highlights will be, at least for me, is the Viking River Cruise to Europe which we have been planning for over two years now. We have a good group of members going. We will also be planning several other good and fun trips and drives for the year, so let's get busy and think up some good drives and events to plan to make this year special. I know at least three couples in the club that have the new 2017 RF Miata coming to the dealer this month and know they are excited to drive their new Miatas. As for me, I have my Lava Orange MazdaSpeed out of the body shop after being repaired from the accident which happened on our last official club drive of the year. I've taken the checkered racing decals off, per my wife's request, and it and it looks like a 'new' Miata according to Lynn so we are excited about having our Miata back and looking like new again. It will be a fun year for the club and I'm already looking forward to the warm weather coming and getting my Miata(s) back on the road again. I keep thinking this every time I get out the snow blower to blow all the snow off my driveway each time it snows. I guess we will have to get used to the January and February inversions and nasty, cold weather for awhile as we can't do anything about that. I liked the snow when we had that drive to Bald Mountain in the Uinta Mountains on the 4th of July in 2011 but not right now. Anyway, I can hang out by my warm cozy fire-place and dream of the summer to come. Thanks again for allowing me to be your club president. ZOOM - ZOOM Mike



MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

To prevent interruption of your club benefits, such as receiving your Newsletter, dues for the year are to be paid by the 1st of the month enrolled. Club benefits will stop 3 months after a membership expires at which time their name will be removed from the roster and they will need to re-apply for membership.

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 emailed to you or \$45 if you would like a hard copy sent by standard mail. We will also have a new method on our website, utahmiataclub.org, to pay your dues with PayPal online. This method is \$27 (the extra covers PayPal fees). If mailing a check, please send it to: 233 West 1550 North, Bountiful, Utah 84010 (Phone 801-295-4563) and make it out to Utah Miata Club. Margie can also be contacted at the following email address: sec.treasumc@icloud.com

RECENTLY EXPIRED		EXPIRING 1/31/2017	
CHIP & JANICE BERLIK DUANE HARRIS GREG & LISA JEROME RYAN SPRINGER	10/31/16	ERIC & PAT ACHTER GARY & KATHY COLLINGS DOYLE & VALERIE FRANCIS STURM ERIC & KATHY KANKAINEN SCOTTY MEDINE GORDY & JACKIE NICHOLL JIM & PAT VAUGHN MICHAEL & MICHELE RIDING	
JAMES & SARAH KERR	11/31/16		
KEN DODGE DAVE & BRENDA ENCHEFF JOE LEVERICH JOANN JACKOBSEN-WELLS	12/31/16		

TO BE REMOVED FROM ROSTER : WES STARKENBERG

NEW MEMBERS

DALE RIM

2016

BLACK

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JOY MITCHELL 3RD

HAROLD DECKER 9TH

MICHELLE MAYFIELD 15TH

CHIP BERLIK 27TH

JACKIE NICHOLL 30TH



SHAWN SELLERS 5TH

PAUL KLOER 12TH

THOMAS DRYSDALE 17TH

CANDY HENDRIX 30TH

Upcoming Fun and Events

January 2017 Edition

(Submitted and updated by Steve Beckstead)

~~December 10th: Annual Christmas Celebration (Mike and Lynn)~~

~~December 19th: Grand Theater Juanito Bandito play (Lou Vredeveld)~~

Welcome 2017

January 7th: **Bohemian Grill** 11:30 - Monthly Meeting (Mike)

January 21st: **Bountiful Mazda** 5pm - Election and Planning Meeting

February 4th: **Monthly Lunch (TBD)** Monthly Meeting (New Pres)

March 4th: **Monthly Lunch (TBD)** Monthly Meeting (New Pres)

April 1st: **Monthly Lunch (TBD)** Monthly Meeting (New Pres)

May 6th: **Monthly Lunch (TBD)** Monthly Meeting (New Pres)

June 3rd: **Monthly Lunch (TBD)** Monthly Meeting (New Pres)

July 1st: **Monthly Lunch (TBD)** Monthly Meeting (New Pres)

July 8th to 26th: **(Dates Vary)** Viking Grand European river cruise

August 5th: **Summer Picnic (Date tentative)** Monthly Meeting (New Pres)

August 20th to 26th: **Miatas at the Total Solar Eclipse** (Lou Vredeveld)

JANUARY 2017 LUNCHEON & MEETING

BY MIKE BAILEY

When: Saturday, January 7, 2017

Time; 11:30 a.m.

Where: Bohemian Brewery & Grill

Address: 94 East Ft. Union Blvd. (7200 So.)

Midvale, Utah 84047

Phone: 801-566-5474

January's New Year Luncheon and Club Meeting will be at the Bohemian Brewery & Grill located in Midvale. The time will be 11:30 a.m.

Directions: If coming by I-15 freeway get off at 7200 So. exit and go east just a block east of State Street on south side. We will meet in the dining room upstairs. We will be ordering off the menu. It is a diverse menu featuring German Bavarian and Czech food such as Bratwurst, Schnitzel and other delicious foods prepared fresh daily. They also offer breakfast items or lunch items, appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, burgers, wood-fired pizza and other pub fare style food. They also have many delicious desserts. Their microbrewery features specialty Czech Republic and Bavarian Beers. For more information on the Bohemian Brewery visit their website at www.bohemianbrewery.com.

We hope to see you all there. Zoom -
Zoom Mike



ELECTIONS & PLANNING MEETING

BY MIKE BAILEY

Where: Bountiful Mazda; Upstairs Conference Room
 Date & Time: Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.
 Dinner Menu: Pizza and Salad provided by club

Our annual Election and Planning Meeting will be on Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at our usual place in the Conference Room (upstairs) at Bountiful Mazda. We are keeping the menu really easy and simple this year as it worked out so well with less fuss and bother last year, so thanks to Jim we decided to do the same thing. Our Dinner menu will be Pizza and Salad and Cookies for dessert with bottled water provided by the Club. The club will take care of all the food this year so no pot luck menu items will be necessary to bring from members.



We will conduct our annual Elections Meeting first and elect "New" Club Officers & Directors for the 2017 year. Please let any current officer know by the January luncheon if you are interested in running for any of the open positions which will be President, Vice President and two Director's positions. Also let us know if you would like to nominate anyone for one of these positions, but let them know of this in advance as a courtesy so they may accept or decline the invitation. After election of Officers, we will appoint and ratify the other appointed positions available for club members. Remember this is your club so please join the team of great leaders that we have had in the past and run for an office.

After the elections we will have the 2016 Planning Meeting. At this time the new President will preside over the rest of the meeting. This is where we discuss the major activities and drives for the year and do a basic outline in planning them. Be sure to bring a Calendar with you if you have one. We would like to have a different club member be in charge, each month of the year, for planning the luncheon place or type of luncheon we will have as well as plan a drive or activity. You can plan this with two or three couple friends if you like, so not one couple has all the responsibility. You also do not have to 'be in charge' of running it or leading the drive, if you wish not to, but express this at this time. We are mainly looking for good or 'new' ideas on drives and activities. Put on your thinking caps and let's plan some new activities or drives this year and try something different. It is good to get new ideas from new club members on what you want to do. The success of this club depends on new ideas from all the people in the club. Hope to see everyone at this event. It will be a great way to start off the new year!

Bountiful Mazda should have a new 2017 RF (Retractable Fastback) Miata on the showroom floor (if it is not sold by this date) for us to look at. We want to thank Bountiful Mazda and MJ and Mike MacDonald for providing their conference room for our club meeting. We ask that you patronize our Dealer Sponsor throughout the year.



MIDWAY ICE CASTLES

BY MIKE BAILEY

When: Wednesday, January 11, 2017
 Time: 6:00 - 6:30 PM arrival time slot
 Where: Homestead Resort, Midway, Utah
 Address: 700 Homestead Drive, Midway, UT. 84049

The Midway Ice Castles is a fabulous design of amazing ice features which include archways, tunnels, slot canyons, caverns, glacial waterfalls, a frozen throne and an ice slide. It is a stunning "Narnia" like display created completely of natural frozen ice. We plan to see this in the early evening after the sun goes down as there will be colorful LED lights which are set to music at night, which will be much more dramatic in the evening than daytime.



The display was built by hand and made from more than 20,000,000 lbs. of ice. There are only 4 of these displays in the USA and Canada, so we are very lucky to have this in 'our back yard'. It was created by the same group of people who did the Holiday Light show that we drove our Miatas through during the holidays last year at the Olympic Oval in Kearns. Last year our planned event was cancelled first week of March due to the ice melting, so thought we would go early this year.

It is located at the Homestead Resort in Midway, Utah. We are planning to go on Wednesday early evening, January 11th. Cost is \$9.95 + tax per person. Children 4-11 are \$6.95. Standby lines at door is \$15.00 or \$10.00 for children. This is \$2.00 less than last year's pricing. There is a 10% discount for purchase of 10+ tickets by purchase on-line. I have mentioned in an email to them about our group coming. Each couple or person would have to purchase their own ticket, unless someone in our group or club will want to do this. We will discuss this at our January luncheon. There is also discounts available through Groupon and KSL.com. For On-Line orders you have to select a "time frame of one-half hour" to purchase your ticket and be there within this time frame. Our time slot will be 6:00-6:30 PM for our group. We can stay at the Ice Castles as long as we want. They close at 9:00 pm.

Each member is requested to purchase their own tickets. Meeting for dinner after either in Midway, Soldier Hollow or Heber City is optional after our Ice Castle visit. We can discuss this at January luncheon to see if people are interested, but we would like to invite everyone to do that. Parking for the event will be at the Homestead Resort. For a video of the ice castles see www.icastles.com. Also you can find info on their Facebook page. Questions; make a comment on the FB page. Phone: 888-407-4054



MIATA OF THE MONTH

BY MIKE BAILEY



Starting the 2017 year out right is the arrival of the very first Miata RF in the Utah Miata Club, licensed and now on the road. Jim and Margie Newson took possession of their new RF I think on December 28th (give or take a day or so) from Bountiful Mazda. It is a real beauty. I stopped by on December 29th and he showed me how to put the top down and I was able to get 'up close and personal' with the RF. The RF top has three main pieces to it and it is a nice system of all pieces folding up together and inserted into the area behind the seats when the top is lowered. Mazda has a winner with this design and the looks of the RF are fabulous. I am sure Jim and Margie can't wait for some nice weather to get this baby on the roads and see what it does and how it handles.

The RF went on sale to Miata enthusiasts on Sept. 26 and was opened to the public on Oct. 3rd. There were 1,000 of the Limited Launch Editions which sold out within 13 hours. 67% of the 1,000 sold were with manual transmissions and the rest automatic transmissions. The Launch Edition comes exclusively in Machine Gray Metallic paint with a hand painted Black top. The interior is Auburn Nappa Leather. Later on this year the RF will be offered in other Mazda colors.



VIKING RIVER CRUISE JANUARY 2017 UPDATE

BY MIKE BAILEY



6 Months to go!

Our Sailing Departure Date is July 10, 2017

Attention Cruiser Group: Most of us have our Air Fare and European Hotel Packages and pre and post Travel Packages booked with Amber Lee from Morris-Murdock. If not, please contact her to get this taken care of so you will have everything in place for the trip.

Our agent is working now on Air Fare and Pre and Post Hotel Packages and Travel Arrangements and will be contacting each couple on this. If she has not contacted you, please contact her.

For all Cruise Details go to Morris Murdock Web Site Page:

<https://mmi.cvent.com/GrandEuropeanTour2017>

Check out Photos of the NEW Viking Longboat Ship: VIKING SKIRNIR.
The amenities are fabulous! Our Sailing Departure Date is July 10, 2017



Details on the cruise on our UMC Website: www.utahmiataclub.org Click Viking Logo Ship for Details. Put the word out to family, friends, and other Miata people for "the Trip of a Lifetime!" Only about 10 Cabins are left. Explorer Suites and Veranda AA Suites with FREE Non-Stop Airfare included. Also a few Standard Cabins available. Call NOW to Book!

Also keep tuned in on our Viking River Cruise Facebook Page about our cruise.



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PARTY REPORT

BY MIKE BAILEY

Our annual Christmas party had a record turnout of members. Someone told me there were about 65 people but it seems like 70 came. The house was full and the Christmas spirit was in the air. We asked everyone to come in their favorite Christmas outfit, socks, sweater, hat or whatever and were going to have a contest for best male, female and couple but time got away from us and it didn't get mentioned before everyone started packing up to go home. Our White Elephant gift exchange took a little longer than expected with gifts getting taken from others the maximum three times around before ending up with the final owner. Two of the most prized gifts were paintings made and framed by Amber Johanson and her friend Margel painted from photos of Miatas. One was a mountain curvy drive with Miatas from the rear and the other was on a mountain road with trailing Miatas down a road to a lake or body of water. I know Carol Lynn Vredeveld, among others, wanted one and may have had her hands on both of them at one time but they ended up with Terri Black and Lynn getting them. There were several other sought after gifts and a risqué looking gift of a door jamb holder/window breaker (in case of emergency) tool (not sure of official name of the item) that received a lot of laughs as it was mistaken for something else. Robert Mechling was quite embarrassed by it, it seems. You would have had to been there to appreciate it! The Miata filter hat that Dave Encheff made years ago was recycled and picked up by Spence Wood this year. We missed the Encheff's and Hendrix's this year. We also missed old friends like the Porters who are in Arizona now and others that could not make it. We got a phone call by the Bowers from Hawaii but didn't hear my phone ring among all the commotion, so we were sorry to miss their call.

The food catered by Steve at Moon Dogs was an excellent dressing stuffed pork loin roast roll that was delicious and members brought lots of items to go with it. Thanks to Jim Newson for arranging this as it took a lot of the load off Lynn in roasting turkey breasts and a spiral ham like we have had in year's past. It was nice to not have to do all that cooking. We had a great time at the party. Maybe next year we need to do the white elephant as couples so it does not take so long. Jim's idea of drawing numbers worked out great this year. Everyone had lots of fun visiting with each other and getting to know some of the new members. I want to thank everyone for coming and for the good time as it was a great way to end the year with this party as it always is. We want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and a prosperous one also.



TRIBUTE TO GORDON NICHOLL

BY MIKE BAILEY

I felt it fitting to include a tribute to one of our favorite Utah Miata Club members and dear friend to all of us, Gordon Nicholl. Gordy is a past President, Vice President and Director of the Utah Miata Club. He has also been a valued Drive Leader and planner of drives, events and activities for the club. He has organized his Shun Pike drive for several years and also planned and organized most all the main drives for our regional Miatas in Moab, Miatas in Bryce, and this past year's Miatas in Deer Valley. Gordy has been a very valuable part of the Utah Miata Club, and will continue to be so.



All of our hearts are saddened by his recent accident on Wednesday, December 21st, only four days before Christmas. He was anxious to purchase a new lift for his massive garage at his home and after he and his son-in-law, Jeff Durrant, brought it home he went up the very steep ladder to his loft to throw a tarp down to Jeff to cover the lift. He fell from the loft onto his head and has been in the Murray IHC Hospital in the ICU since then. It will be a long road for his recovery. We wish that you keep Gordy and Jackie and their family in your prayers for his recovery. Jackie will need a lot of support from club members and friends through all of this. She has constantly been by her husband's side since the accident happened. A Facebook page titled "Gordon Nicholl's Health Status Update" has been set up and managed by his daughter Kristi. It is a closed group but if you are not a member you can ask to be a member and will be approved by Kristi.

I have many photos attached which show Gordy's personality. I hope many of these photos will make you smile. I have also created a photo album on the facebook page mention above which highlights many of Gordy's adventures with the Miata Club. He has been a true friend to all of us. His new RF Miata has arrived and will be delivered by Scotty Medine at Bountiful Mazda soon. His Miata has said "Hi" to him and cannot wait for him to be driving it. Please keep Gordy in your thoughts and prayers.



JUST FOR FUN

BY MIKE BAILEY

Just thought we would start a new page for 2017 Newsletters. Anyone can contribute to this page, just for fun! Send me your Cartoons, funny antidotes, Miata TidBits, or Miata Trivia for this page. Send to Mike Bailey.



4 Wheeler Miata



Marriage Proposal Miata Style



Monster Miata



ND Miatas arriving at Seattle Dock



Cichocki's just got Two Feet of Snow in NH



Special Edition 1991 Miata (Only 24 produced)



Miata Christmas Card, December 1990

CHRISTMAS CANDID CAMERA

BY MIKE BAILEY

