

Miata Sounder



*Newsletter of the Puget Sound Miata Club
The Oldest Miata Club in the World*

Holiday party kicks off December events

Hosted by PSMC Board

Contact: Mindy Bohnas, 360-895-0931

Saturday, Dec. 6 is the date of the PSMC Holiday Party! Festivities will kick off at 6 p.m. with the theme, "Ring in the Holidays." It promises to be a great place to gather and enjoy an evening with your Miata friends.

During the first hour, we'll have no-host cocktails, a chance to drop your door prize ticket off and a chance to purchase additional door prize tickets. Dinner's around 7 p.m. This year's menu will feature salad, turkey or ham, two kinds of potatoes, a vegetable dish, rolls and the ever-popular dessert. Tickets for beer and wine will be handed out at the door. Sodas and water are free. You also can purchase additional beverage tickets at the door.

Each person at the party will receive one raffle ticket. In addition, you will have a chance to purchase additional raffle tickets so if there's a prize you especially like, you can better your chances to win it with additional tickets. This year's door prizes will be handled differently from the past few years as well.

Rather than many small door prizes, the closet has been stocked with just a few in-demand door prizes. You will be able to drop your door prize ticket into the jar beside the prize you'd most

like to win. You also can purchase additional door prize tickets and stuff the box so you will be assured of winning that prize. We'll have 8 door prizes to choose from, including the "Wine Lover's Gift Pack", two MacGuair's Car Care packs, plus two custom-embroidered blankets that will fit perfectly in your car. Every ticket will go back in the box for the grand prize, a week at a Trendwest resort timeshare, donated by Gayle Lazur.

One of our charitable giving projects is to support the Toys for Tots program, so if you'd like to participate, this is your chance! Just purchase a toy for a child through age 12, boy or girl, valued up to \$10 and bring it (unwrapped) to the party. Our volunteers will make sure they get delivered.

Dancing and karaoke have been a theme of holiday parties past, so back by popular demand, we'll have both of these favorites to close out the evening. We have a volunteer of a member who will be spinning music for us, but if you have great dance music at home, please bring it along and share it for the party.

Cost for this year's party is \$20 per person. Pre-registration is recommended so the board can plan food accordingly. To pre-register, go to the PSMC web site at www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org and RSVP. Then mail your checks for \$20 per person to: Charlotte Fellers, 1800 4th St. NE, Auburn, WA 98002.

Directions to Ballinger Lake Golf Course: I-5 Northbound: Take I-5 north to Exit 178. Take 236th Street SW to Mountlake Terrace. Turn left on 236th Street SW, which becomes Lakeview Drive. Follow road downhill. Ballinger Golf Course is on the left. **I-5 Southbound:** Take Exit 179 (220th Street SW). Stay to the right and turn right on to 220th Street SW. Get in the left lane and go to the second light (66th Ave West) and turn left. Go straight on 66th Ave. West to 236th St. SW (end of the road). Turn right onto 236 St. SW which becomes Lakeview Drive. Follow the road downhill to Ballinger Golf Course on the left.



These lap blankes have been custom embriodered with the PSMC Logo and will be a nice addition to any Miata's trunk. Two will be given away at the Holiday Raffle during the PSMC Holiday Party.

(Photo by Mindy Bohnas)

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MIATA SOUNDER

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PUBLISHING

The *SOUNDER* is published monthly (as close to the first of the month as possible). The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. All articles and ads are due by then, so as to be included in the following month's publication.

Event Masters are encouraged to get their event info to the editor as soon as possible to ensure all members can plan for the event.

Send your submissions to:

Miata Sounder
 1800 4th St. NE
 Auburn, WA 98002
 editorcharlotte@gmail.com
 sounder@pugetsoundmiataclub.org

ADVERTISING

Classified - member.....free
Classified - nonmember/business \$20.00
 1/4 page \$35.00
 1/2 page \$65.00

LEGAL STUFF

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pugetsoundmiataclub.org

Visit our website for the latest club info, links to other Miata sites and more.

upcoming events

Don't let the blues get to you; come to a social on Dec. 27!

Hosted by: Tom & Lindanne Gores

Contact at: 253-851-5110

Do you ever feel like those holidays just came and went too quickly? Don't let the blues get to you! Plan to attend an after-holiday open house at the home of members Tom and Lindanne Gores. The fun begins at 4 p.m. and hand-crafted, carefully prepared food by Lindanne will be served beginning shortly after 4 p.m.

If you'd like to entertain with piano music, you are welcome to sit down and "tickle the ivories" and help the Gores entertain their guests. Finally, if you imbibe a bit more libation than you should have, the Gores welcome you to spend the night in one of their guest rooms.

The address is 5702 43rd Ave. NW, Gig Harbor.

Directions:

From Tacoma: take Hwy 16, across the Narrows Bridge (\$4.00 toll on your way home - no toll west to Gig Harbor) take the Olympic exit, turn left crossing over the freeway. go through 4 traffic lights (on green) at the 40mile per hour speed sign put on right turn signal. Turn right at 43rd. We are the 4th house on left 5702. IF you see a church or the Erin's gravel you've gone too far. turn around and turn left at 43rd.



Board members change again

The PSMC Board has changed again, with the resignation of former President Bonnie Lohkamp. Bonnie moved to Arkansas in August with fellow board member/husband Larry Lohkamp and decided it was in the best interest of the club to resign.

Appointed to fill the remainder of Bonnie's term on the board is Mike Springer, who also is a past president. He attended the board meeting November 8 and said he was ready to get back into some activities with the club and this was a good start.

Also discussed at the board meeting was the opening of co-parade coordinator, with the resignation of Bill Bell, who stepped down from that position because he is now the president of the Arkansas Razorback Alumni Club in the area. While Bill has left that position, he keeps his seat on the board through the year. Board president Mindy Bohnas said she is looking for someone to fill Bill's slot as co-chair for parades. The other co-chair is Dan White, who organizes Miatas for a number of parades on the Olympic Peninsula in the summertime.

Other board business discussed at the meeting revolved around the survey that is published in this month's Sounder

(see page 4). Just fill out the survey and return it to: Charlotte Fellers, 1800 4th St NE, Auburn, WA 98002 by Dec. 31. The board will review the comments at the January 10 board meeting in hopes of serving all of our membership better.

If you would rather complete the survey online, just go to our website at www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org and complete it there. As you can see, it's short and will take less than five minutes to complete. Some copies of the survey also will be available at the annual Holiday Party Dec. 6 (see page 1).

Membership in the LeMay Museum will continue, but only at the \$100 level. In past years, the club donated at the \$500 level, but finances are tighter due to the loss of our main fund raiser, the Miatacross.

Sean McGriff, the club treasurer, also discussed some of our other budget concerns. Sean said the Sounder costs have dropped significantly since the board voted to start printing the Sounder on a copier rather than offset. The savings are estimated at about \$1200 per year. The Board hopes a new fundraiser idea will emerge soon.

The board meets again January 10 at the Mitzel's in South Everett. Lunch is at 11 a.m. followed by the meeting afterward. Check the website for directions.



One of 8 door prizes for the Holiday Party 2008 is this "Remember Hawaii" gift pack, which comes with chocolates, macadamia nuts, a nostalgic calendar of World War II-era photos, published by the National Park Service, a coffee mug and other goodies. This prize also comes in it's own authentic Hawaiian print bag!

(Photo by Charlotte Fellers)



It's Casper...well, not exactly! It's a Miata in a ghost costume, courtesy of Carol Kuz and Frank Shriver, who dressed up their Miata for the annual Bremmerton Trick or Treat Event October 31. As with most events, dinner at a local eatery was a main feature of the evening, where Frank & Carol regaled all with tales of their recent trip to China.

(Photo by Mindy Bohnas)

member survey

Please help your PSMC Board out by completing this survey so we can serve all our members better. Mail it by December 31 to: Charlotte Fellers, 1800 4th St NE, Auburn WA 98002; or go to www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org and complete it online.

What is the main reason you joined the Puget Sound Miata Club? Please rank from 1 to 14 in order of importance, 1 being the MOST IMPORTANT and 14 the LEAST IMPORTANT.

- Detailin' Day The Gathering
 The Holiday Party Go on local drives
 Make new friends with interest in Miatas
 Out-of-town tours "Tech Tips" on car maintenance
 Specific or special-interest tours (such as the Shakespeare Festival/Wine Tour)
 Like to show off my car in parades
 Enjoy the connection to Autocross events
 Club discounts on parts/labor at local Miata dealerships
 Socials (i.e. get-togethers in private homes on weekends)
 Other: _____

Do you receive the Sounder newsletter via:

- E-mail
 Snail Mail

If you receive the Sounder newsletter via snail mail, would you be willing to pay an additional fee of \$30 per year to cover the costs to print and mail it (\$2.50 per issue is the approximate actual cost to print and mail the newsletter)?

- Yes No

The club used to raise funds by hosting a "Miatacross" event annually, which generated about \$2000 in profit to the club to sponsor club activities. At this time, we have no venue to host this event, so we are hoping to find new ways to generate the money we lost from losing that event. Which of the following (again, in rank order) would you support?

- Solicit car dealerships to sponsor us; in return we would give them advertising space on our website and in the Sounder.
 Increase dues (this is discussed in another question)
 Host a detailing day for the general public, who would pay us to detail their cars.
 Host a car show
 Other _____

Our insurance coverage costs the club approximately \$1,500 per year. Without it, the club would not be able to host any events, so it is essential to the survival of the club. To help cover this cost, would you support

(check all that apply):

- Dues increase to cover some of the cost
 Charge more for paid events, such as the Holiday Party and the Gathering
 Charge a nominal fee per car for each tour (\$5-\$8 per car per tour)
 Other _____

Do you have suggestions on how to improve PSMC Board-sponsored events:

Holiday Party:

Gathering:

Detailin' Day:

What keeps you from participating in more PSMC events:

- Scheduling conflicts
 Location of events is inconvenient
 Cost/Economic concerns connected to the event
 Other: _____

What has prevented you from hosting a PSMC event?

- Don't know of a co-host with experience hosting events.
 Don't know where/how to start.
 Not sure about driving routes.
 Time issues
 Other _____

What activities on this list have you participated in at some time in the past?

- Day Trips Overnight trips Wine tours
 Parades Socials at private homes
 First Friday Formals Detailin' Day
 The Gathering Edited the Sounder
 Holiday Party Held an office on the board

Would you like a monthly reminder on your e-mail of events upcoming that month?

- Yes No, thanks

The Fall of Autocross

By Denise Williamson

No, it's not what you might be thinking! It's just that time of the season, that's all. Although the leaves were turning color and the weather had become chillier, this did not stop autocrossers from getting in a few more events in 2008. Sept. 28 was "Dawg Dash", a WWSCC event. There were 96 entrants, including three PSMC drivers. *Alan Dahl* placed fourth in PRO1 in his '07 Solstice GXP, with an AS-indexed time of 42.092. *J McGeary* placed first in Improved B in his '91 Miata with a 57.655. In Stock D, *Dieter Beldi* placed first in his '07 MazdaSpeed 3 with a 53.275. Kudos for the event go to *Alan Dahl*, who had the third top unindexed time of the day.



Glen Hernandez takes his turn at the Packwood Pro Solo earlier this year. Hernandez captured many awards this year at local Autocross events.

(Photo by Denise Williamson)

October 19 was SCCA #8 at Bremerton, the last SCCA event of the year. Out of 175 entrants, 10 were PSMC members. *Rich Blake* won the Stock 2 class in his '94 Miata with an ES-indexed time of 38.177. In Stock 3, *Dieter Beldi* won in his '07 MazdaSpeed3 with a DS-indexed time of 40.101. *Russ Hill* placed 13th in the Non-Stock 4 class in his '91 Miata with an STS2-indexed time of 42.399. In Street Mod 2, *Enrique Garcia* placed second in Brett's '99 Miata with a 46.392, and *Bob Bundy* placed 3rd in his '90 Miata with a 47.719.



Dieter Beldi participates in the Packwood Pro Solo earlier this year. Beldi had many wins this year in Autocross action.

(Photo by Denise Williamson)

Glen Hernandez placed third in the Open PAX class in an '06 Lotus Elise with an SS-indexed time of 37.308, and *Alan Dahl* placed seventh in his '07 Solstice GXP with an AS-indexed time of 38.148. Running for fun in Time Only were *Brett Wilson* (twice, both times in his '99 Miata), *TJ McGeary* (in a Lexus ES350), *Bob Bundy* (in a Mazda 323GTX), *Enrique Garcia* (in Brett's car), and *Tom Slipp* (in his '91 Miata). Double kudos for the event go to *Glen Hernandez*, who had the sixth top indexed time of the day **and** the sixth top unindexed time of the day.

Last but not least for the 2008 autocross season was the WWSCC "Sports Car Spectacular", held on October 26. There were 138 entrants on this very chilly day, including six PSMC members (did you really think cold weather would keep them away?). *Bob Bundy* won the Open Street class in his '90 Miata with a 48.511. In Stock D, *Dieter Beldi* placed first in his '07 MazdaSpeed 3 with a 49.349, while co-driver *TJ McGeary* placed second with a 50.594. Running for fun in Time Only were *Brett Wilson* ('99 Miata), *TJ McGeary* ('06 Lotus Elise), *Glen Hernandez* ('03 Mitsubishi Evo), *Dieter Beldi* ('07 MazdaSpeed3), and *Tom Slipp* ('91 Miata).

That's it for the 2008 season! Stay tuned next month for a season summary. You'll be surprised just how much successful autocrossing was done by PSMC drivers!

December Autocross

(For more info, go to www.wwsc.org)

- 2 BSCC Monthly Meeting Gig Harbor Round Table Pizza
- 9 NWR/SCCA Solo Committee Meeting Goldie's Airport Way (SCCA)
- 15 WWSCC Council Meeting Goldie's Airport Way

LeMay captures new support from Colorado

LeMay, America's Car Museum® is pleased to announce the recent founding sponsorship commitment of Club Auto Colorado by AAA Colorado. Club Auto Colorado is one of two satellite facilities of the Museum and is located in Lakewood, Colorado, just outside of Denver. Club Auto is a nation-wide membership program designed to generate support for America's Car Museum. It's built around gathering places for enthusiasts who own collector or unique cars that range from classic automobiles to modern sports cars, hot-rods to race cars, and even unique motorcycles.

Membership benefits include full reciprocal access and privileges at all regional Club Auto locations, currently in Kirkland, WA and Colorado. These clubhouses offer secured, climate-controlled vehicle storage, member-only road trips and other events world-wide, the ability to participate in the Museum's Adopt-An-Auto program and admission privileges at LeMay - America's Car Museum, among other benefits.

President and CEO of AAA Colorado, Tony DeNovellis, played an instrumental role in securing the sponsorship for Club Auto Colorado. "AAA Colorado is pleased to be a founding

sponsor with one of the premier car museums in America. AAA Colorado has many members who are associated with Club Auto and this is another way to assist in supporting those members."

AAA has been a generous supporter of the Museum with a \$1.6 million sponsorship that was announced in November from AAA Washington.



Member Spotlight on . . . Ron Haworth of Bellevue



Ron has been a PSMC member since 2000. He drives a black '95 M-1 Miata.

Joined the PSMC because. . ."I thought it'd be fun to go on drives with the club."

Biggest item hauled in your Miata was . . ."a toss-up between some 8-foot long 2 x 4's or an HP Office Printer (Model 4250)...that thing was HUGE!"

Favorite club event. . . "was that run to the Auburn Drive Inn we did a few years ago."

Recently spotted at . . .summertime parades.

Thanks to the following Miata dealers who provide PSMC member discounts (simply show your PSMC Card):

Coop's Miata of Maple Valley (425) 432-9666

Doug's Lynnwood Mazda (425) 774-3551

Mazda of Everett (425) 353-3403

Louie Orrino at South Tacoma Mazda (253) 722-2888/Cost plus 20%

University Mazda of Seattle (206) 634-1191

Whidbey Island Mazda of Oak Harbor (360) 675-2218

New and Familiar Faces

Hope we will see you at an event soon!

Leif and Peggie Loe '96 Red

Kazi & Errol Scott '99 Red

Charley and Nancy Drake '95 Merlot

Lawrence and Sandra Bicknell '00 Silver

T.J. McGeary '91 BRG

President's Message

By Mindy Bohnas
PSMC President



It's not too late to decide to come to the Holiday Party on Saturday, December 6th. We will accept payment at the door, but please RSVP per the article on page 1 so we know you are coming. The new venue will provide a better atmosphere to share time with old or new Miata friends. There will be great food & drinks, dancing, Karaoke, door prizes and so much more! I urge you to come and would like to meet you personally.

You may have noticed a Membership Survey on page 4 of the Sounder or on the website. As the current President, I want to do everything I can to ensure that all members are satisfied with the types of events we have on the calendar and are getting enough value out of their yearly membership. Please take 5 or 10 minutes to answer the survey questions so the Board can get an idea of what club benefits are important to you. If you don't have online access, there is an address to mail your completed survey. We don't need names so feel free to leave the return address blank if necessary. Please fill in the blank comment section or use the back of the page if you have other concerns or comments the survey didn't address. The Board will review the responses at the Planning and Board meeting on Jan 10th and print the results in the February Sounder.

In case you didn't know, our club was the very first Miata club formed in the United States recognized by the Miata Club of America. The MCA has since disbanded, but their website turned into Miata.net, which is why that is one of the best websites to turn to for "All Things Miata". 2009 will be the 20th Anniversary of the Miata/MX-5 and of the Puget Sound Miata Club so we hope to have at least one or two extra special events or tours on the calendar. If you have an idea for a tour or would like to help another host with their tour just to "get your feet wet", please come to our Calendar Planning meeting at Mitzel's in South Everett on January 10th at 11:00. In order to put events on the calendar, we need people willing to be hosts and tour guides. It's really not too hard to do and we will help you find a seasoned co-host if you've need one. Some of our best remembered or yearly tours started out as small talk between members at another event or board meeting!

I would like to thank Bonnie Lohkamp for all the help she continued to provide as the Executive Officer of the club even though she and Larry moved to Arkansas in August. She decided it was in the best interest of the club to resign her office. She is hoping to make it to the Holiday Party and would love to be able to talk with everyone then, since the move happened so quickly.

I am pleased to announce that Mike Springer has agreed to step in as the Executive Officer in Bonnie's absence, so I appointed him to the office at the November Board Meeting. Mike is a past club President who will be able to help me in many ways. Thank you Mike!

I wish you Happy Holidays! Come to Tommy and Lindane's 3rd Annual Open House on December 27th if you're in the area. I'll be there for sure.

Mindy Bohnas
Life's Short, Drive a Miata



OFFICERS/DIRECTORS WEB COMMITTEE

CHIEF OFFICERS

Operating _____	Mindy Bohnas
Executive _____	Mike Springer
Communications _____	Gayle Lazur
Financial _____	Sean McGriff

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Bill Bell	Ling Louderback	Larry Lohkamp
Chris Stollery	Charlotte Fellers	Sean McGriff
Tom Millar	Brian Louderback	Pam Mcgriff
Cindy Millar	Gayle Lazur	Melanie Wood

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Insurance Coordinator	—	Gayle Lazur
Data Coordinator	—	Sean McGriff
Parade Coordinator	—	Dan White
Sounder Editor	—	Charlotte Fellers
Webmaster	—	Nathan Allan
Autocross Rep	—	Denise Williamson

WEB COMMITTEE

Webmaster/EIO	—	Nathan Allan
Assistant Webmaster	—	Mindy Bohnas
Classified Ads/Specialty Programmer	—	John Young
Special Graphics	—	Mike Springer
Forum Administrator	—	David Whooley

MEMBERSHIP

The club operates as a non-profit organization and relies primarily on volunteer services. However, sponsorship of events, the publication and mailing of the monthly newsletter and operating supplies constitute a financial burden that must be met by the membership. Make your Miata experience more enjoyable-join and participate. To keep the club meaningful and solvent, we need your support.

To join go online at pugetsoundmiataclub.org or send your name, address and check for \$30 (annual chapter dues) to:

Puget Sound Miata Club
222 Wells Ave N
Renton, WA 98055

2009 Calendar

For details about these events or to **RSVP**, check out the Calendar at pugetsoundmiataclub.org

December 2008

- 6 PSMC Holiday Party, Lake Ballinger Country Club, 6 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
- 27 "After Christmas" party, hosted by Gores in Gig Harbor.

January 2009

- 10 PSMC Board Meeting, Mitzel's in South Everett, lunch, 11 a.m., meeting to follow

February 2009

- 6 First Friday Formal, hosted by Mike/Lilly Springer
- 14 Red Wine & Chocolate Tour, hosted by Tom/Lindanne Gores

March 2009

- 14 Progressive Supper, hosted by Dee Dalkhe and Lindanne Gores

April 2009

- 4 PSMC Nominating Committee Meeting
- 18 Saturday Social, hosted by Charlotte Fellers
- 26 MC Car Club Northwest Tulip Rallye

May 2009

- 2 PSMC Detailin' Day
- 9 Sequim Irrigation Festival Parade, noon
- 16 Poulsbo Viking Fest Parade, 2 p.m.
- 19 First 'Eat & Greet,' hosted by Bill Bell, place TBD
- 30 Shelton Parade, Social following at home of Tom & Lindanne Gores in Gig Harbor.

June 2009

- 6 Board Elections and Board Meeting, TBA
- 13 Second Sloppy Saturday, hosted by Sean/Pam McGriff
- 27 Fathoms of Fun Parade, Pt. Orchard, 6 p.m.
- 30 Second 'Eat & Greet,' hosted by Bill Bell place TBD

July 2009

- 3-5 Historics Races, 8-5 daily, Pacific Raceways, Auburn

July 2009 (con't)

- 4 Kingston Parade, noon, followed by lunch
- 11 Hurricane Ridge (**needs a host!**)
- 14 Third 'meet & greet', hosted by Bill Bell, place TBD
- 18 Wideby Island Tour, hosted by Frank Shriver & Carol Kuz
- 19 Chinatown Parade, 5 p.m. (tentative) (**Needs a host**)
- 25 Silverdale Whaling Days Parade, 10 a.m., lunch to follow

August 2009

- 8 Sea To Sky
- 15 Annual PSMC Northwest Gathering
- 23 Wine Tasting Drive & Eat, Gig Harbor
- 25 Fourth 'meet & greet', hosted by Bill Bell, place TBD
- 29 LeMay Museum Open House, 9-5, hosted by Mike Springer

September 2009

- 6 Road run to South Bend; South Bend Parade, hosted by Duncan Johnson and Dee Dalkhe.
- 18-20 '50's Beach Party @ Long Beach, hosted by Mike/Lilly Springer (**Needs a co-host**)
- 25 Leavenworth AutumnFest Parade

October 2009

- 3-4 Olympic Peninsula Tour, hosted by Tom/Cindy Millar
- 31 Halloween Party, hosted by Mike/Lilly Springer, Tacoma
- 31 Bremmerton Safe Trick-or-Treat, 5-8 p.m.

November 2009

- 7 Fall PSMC Board Meeting, Mitzel's in Fife, 11 a.m. lunch, meeting to follow
- 22 Turkey Teaser, hosted by Sean/Pam McGriff

December 2009

- 5 Annual PSMC Holiday Party, details TBA
- 27 Post Holiday Open House, Tom/Lindanne Gores, Gig Harbor, details TBA

Want to host or co-host an event? Contact Mindy Bohnas to get some help and ideas. 360-731-3897