



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



## Dogging the Green Rabbit

A St. Paddy's Day Rally

Sunday, March 16, 2008 @ 11:00AM

Coop's Miata, Maple Valley

Hosted by Cooper & Ohlsen



Does the word "Rally" strike fear in your heart? Do you have visions of finding yourself stranded on some back road, out of gas on a cold rainy afternoon trying to get a ride to a gas station from a guy named Billy Bob and his friend Bubba Chunks who promises he will take care of the "Little Lady" while you're gone? Well you need not worry. We have a "rally" prepared for you that encompass all the agreeable things a "rally" should be and none of the disagreeable. The "HOUND AND HARE RALLY" we have planned will be a hoot!

All the basic tools of a "Rally" go out the window on this event: no stop watches, computers, compasses or GPS's allowed. All you need to bring is you, your car with a working odometer (Miata preferred but not necessary), any agreeable passenger or not, enough plastic or cash for a Mexican dinner and a working understanding of the terms: left, right, turn around, straight ahead and a colorful assortment of descriptive adjectives.

The all important starting place:

Coop's Miata  
20929 SE 232<sup>nd</sup> St  
Maple Valley, WA 98032

From there you will weave your way through the South King County back roads eventually arriving at an undisclosed but guaranteed inexpensive location. Upon the occasion of your arrival and check in we will dine informally (separate checks), share libation (tip a few or not), sort out the winners (best lucky guessers) and issue some sort of recognition (don't expect much with Allen on the planning team-think cheap green plastic)

If you plan on trying this event please respond to the PSMC website RSVP for the event.

Go to [pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://pugetsoundmiataclub.org). Click: calendar; Click: March (in the right hand column); Click: RSVP (right hand column next to St. Patrick's Run);

Prize for the best (most) wearing of the Green!

Here are the directions to **Coop's**: From the North: I-405 south; take the Enumclaw/Renton Exit; Left at the 2<sup>nd</sup> light on the Maple Valley Hwy 169; go about 9 miles; Right at the light onto SE 231<sup>st</sup> St; Up the hill to SE 210<sup>th</sup> St (Don't turn right); Go left into Coop's. From the South: I-5 north; take the North Bend/Auburn, Hwy 18 Exit; Maple Valley/Renton Exit; Left over the overpass on SE 231<sup>st</sup> St; Up the hill to SE 210<sup>th</sup> St (Don't turn right); Go left into Coop's



Inside March	
2-3	Socials
	PSMC Meetings
	CdeO Rallye
4-5	
Detailin' / New Members	
	Historics
	Mt. St. Helens
6-7	
	Around Town
	It's Unofficial
Board Happenings	
8-9	
	Autocross
	Tour Planning
10-11	
	New / Familiar
	Rewards / Bonnie
12	
Calendar / Classifieds	





## MIATA SOUNDER

### STAFF

Editor ..... Cindy Smith  
 Distribution ..... Randy and Rosa Umemoto  
 Mailing List ..... Randy Umemoto  
 Photography ..... Contributed  
 Printing..... Blue Sky Printing

### FEATURE WRITERS

Club Events ..... Event Masters  
 Event Aftermath ..... Contributors  
 Autocross ..... Denise Williamson  
 Coop's Garage ..... Bill Cooper

## 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**  
 11908 215th PI SE  
 Snohomish, WA 98296-5401  
 (360) 668-5508  
[sounder@pugetsoundmiataclub.org](mailto:sounder@pugetsoundmiataclub.org)

## ADVERTISING

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

## LEGAL STUFF

The Chapter assumes no liability for any information contained herein; or injury or damage resulting from the use of this information. The ideas, opinions, maintenance or modification tips expressed are to be used at the reader's discretion. Individual contributors and/or the editors express no approval, authentication or endorsement.

**[pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://pugetsoundmiataclub.org)**

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

## upcoming events

### PSMC Socials

#### March Social

Frank Shriver & Carol Kus  
 Coupeville, WA

Saturday, March 8, 2008 @ 6:00 PM



Come enjoy a social and potluck at the Kus-Shriver house. It will probably still be cold, but the hardy ones can enjoy a sunset from the deck and everyone can warm up with Carol's world famous chili. There will be beer and wine but if you have a special drink you enjoy, be sure to bring it along. Let's get together with good food and drink so we can talk and dream about traveling with tops down in the very near future.

Please let us know at 360-678-1273 that you are planning to come so we know how much chili to make.

#### Directions to the Kus-Shriver house, Ledgewood Beach, Whidbey Island:

Coming from the Clinton ferry, stay on 525 to mile post 28 (about 20 miles) turn left on to Ledgewood Beach Drive, turn right on to Fircrest Ave were the road ends, the house is on the right, 1947 Fircrest, look for the lighthouse by the driveway.

From Deception Pass, follow Hwy 20 until it becomes 525 and turn right on Ledgewood Beach Drive and then follow directions above.

From the Keystone ferry, turn right getting off the ferry, the road will turn to the left and then right at the stop sign at the top of the hill turn right you are now on 525.

## Upcoming Socials

Keep an eye on the website and future Sounders for details on the following events:

### In April

Saturday, April 19, 2008

Gayle Lazur  
 Edmonds, WA

### In May

Saturday, May 17, 2008

Tom and Cindy Millar  
 14621 32nd Street SE  
 Mill Creek, WA

## Remember

You can now get your Sounder via email instead of snail mail. It's easy, just send an email to [sounder@comcast.net](mailto:sounder@comcast.net)



## upcoming events

### Nominating & Board Meeting

Saturday, April 5, 2008 @ 11 AM

Round Table Pizza, Renton

Hosted by PSMC Board

Article by Bonnie Lohkamp



It is time again to hold our yearly Nominating Meeting for your 2008-09 Officers and Board. This year the meeting will be held at the Round Table Pizza located at 302 SW 43<sup>rd</sup> Street in Renton at 11AM on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. (Round Table will be across the street from Ikea.)

Board members help with the planning of the club's major events and help decide the direction of which the club will be going. This year there will be several openings and we are hoping we will be able to fill those positions. So if you have ever entertained the idea of being on the Board, now is the time to throw your name in the hat. I have personally been involved for the last 5 years as a Director at Large, Chief Communications Officer and now as your current President. All I can say is that it has been a great experience to have been a part of and to work with a great bunch of volunteers, who give their all to make this club work.

If you would like more information about any of the positions, please contact Bonnie Lohkamp at [blohkamp@comcast.net](mailto:blohkamp@comcast.net), Mindy Bohnas at [fun4sun@wavecable.com](mailto:fun4sun@wavecable.com) or Bill Bell at [arbill@hotmail.com](mailto:arbill@hotmail.com) and we will be sure to fill you in on the nitty-gritty of what it takes to be a board member.

The Nominating Meeting will be followed immediately by a Board Meeting to which all members are invited to attend.

Hope to see you there.....Also if you do not have the chance to contact one of us before the meeting you can still submit your name at the meeting.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Round Table has said that if we preorder some pizzas a few days ahead they will also offer us a 10% discount. They have set a section of the restaurant aside for our use exclusively. My thanks to Sean McGriff for obtaining this location and discount offer for us.

Round Table Pizza is located at 302 SW 43rd St. in Renton (across the street from Ikea). Make sure to check the website for driving directions; a map which will be added shortly.

### CdeO All City Rally, v28

Sunday, April 20, 2008

Hosted by CdeO



Puget Sound Miata Club is again invited to participate in this 50-mile gimmick type road rally sponsored by Corvettes de Olympia. It's an open event and all cars are welcome to participate; our Miatas have had fun there over the past several years. This year's 28th annual edition of the rally will have a new format, a new selection of country roads, and clever but straightforward clues. The CdeO rallymaster has appointed our own Duncan Johnson (who has membership in both clubs) to be in charge of laying out the route.

The rally is Sunday April 20, rain or shine. First car out at 9:00 AM, last car out at 11:00 AM, limited to 120 cars. Start from Corvette & High Performance, 2840 Black Lake Blvd, SW, Olympia WA 98512. From I-5, get onto US 101 at Olympia, then take the Black Lake exit, and go south on Black Lake Blvd. a couple of miles to the start.

You'll need: Your Miata with driver and navigator, valid driver's license and *current proof of insurance*, clipboard or similar with pencils and paper to write on, maps of western Washington may be useful. In a gimmick rally, the cars follow a confusing course around obscure roads and attempt to answer unique questions about what you see along the route. Those who get the most right win prizes at the finish. This is not a speed event. There are no dirt roads.

Entry fee is \$16 per car through April 10 and \$20 per car after April 10. Pre-register by mail by downloading a registration form at <http://www.corvettesdeolympia.org> All proceeds fund the Corvettes de Olympia scholarship for automotive students at South Puget Sound Community College; the host club has donated over \$20,000 in scholarships there in recent years.

For more event information, phone rallymaster Brian Cousineau at 360-413-7645.

Shall we have an all-Miata tour TO the rally? Meet for coffee at 8:00 AM at McDonald's at the SW corner of the intersection of I-5 and SR 512, south of Tacoma. We'll leave at 8:30 and cruise together to Olympia. So far there is no assigned tour leader for this run; everyone just show up and whoever is first out can be the leader.

PSMC info: Contact: Duncan Johnson (253) 845-2424 or at [duncanjohnson@mac.com](mailto:duncanjohnson@mac.com)

## Detailing Day is Just Around The Corner!

Detailing Day Clean-up: Saturday & Sunday, April 19-20, 2008

Detailing Day Setup: Saturday & Sunday, April 26-27, 2008

You know, Coop's place doesn't just magically set its ownself up for Detailin' Day! Volunteers are needed for clean-up and set-up. If you can help, please give Coop a call at (425) 432-9666. (Please don't just show up; you will need to call Coop to schedule.)

# upcoming events

## “E Maximus Beautificus Unum”

### Detailin' / New Members Day

Saturday, May 3, 2008 @ 9:30 AM

Coop's Miata, Maple Valley

Hosted by 'Coop' & PSMC Staff

Article by Bill Cooper

**This year's winter had the worst weather we have seen in the Northwest in decades and it's time we did something about it!** Fortunately for us Miataites, the solution is close at hand. We will begin the trek back to sanity on May 3rd at **Coop's Miata** in Maple Valley where we will prepare our chariots for battle against the Gods of grime and misery and the jackals of gloom and depression. **No more I say! No more of this!** With every breath we take, beginning on this day, we won't accept the lingering abuse of these winter scoundrels. We will prepare the shining metal skins of our steeds to high luster. We will remove every vestige of the enemy's presence from every wheel to that insidious green growth on the inside of her soft top. **You must be there.**

Volunteers are needed to make this event work. If you have helped in the past or would like to volunteer for the first time, please contact us and let us know you will .

There will be lots of opportunity for bonding...with, your Miata...and your comrades. Training will commence at 9:30 AM. Veterans will be on hand to assist you. A wash station, an engine cleaning station with pressure washer, an interior station equipped with a steam cleaner and vacuum, **SIX wax stations, manned by the staff** with buffers in hand will make your Miata look like the beauty she aspires to be. All you are asked to bring is a couple of cotton towels for your own use. This year, as is our custom, we have invited **The Dent Guy** to take out those ugly dents at a special low price.

All supplies will be provided by **Coop's Miata**. **Meguiar's** cleaners, soap, glaze and wax will be on hand, **FREE** for your use.

There will also be food and beverages provided, by the staff, **FREE**.

**Recruiters will be on hand as well.** If you have recently joined or are thinking seriously about it there will be volunteers to guide you through the process and introduce you to the rest of the crowd. **You will fit in, guaranteed!**

**Thinking about upgrading your chariot?** Wait till you see what can and has been done by some of these warriors.

The horn of air has sounded! The battle begins! Your comrades await you! Can we depend on you?

Here are the directions to **Coop's**:

*From the North:* I-405 south; take the Enumclaw/Renton Exit; Left at the 2<sup>nd</sup> light on the Maple Valley Hwy 169; go about 9 miles; Right at the light onto SE 231<sup>st</sup> St; Up the hill to SE 210<sup>th</sup> St (Don't turn right); Go left into Coop's

*From the South:* I-5 north; take the North Bend/Auburn, Hwy 18 Exit; Maple Valley/Renton Exit; Left over the overpass on SE 231<sup>st</sup> St; Up the hill to SE 210<sup>th</sup> St (Don't turn right); Go left into Coop's

Please let us know if you plan on attending by responding to:

Use the Club's new reservation service: [www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org); Click calendar, then May, then RSVP on Detailin Day

See you on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May!

(This revised article revived from Coop's 2004 archives, because.... I liked it!)

Volunteers are needed to help man the various stations, help with new members, assist with the food and buff cars. Please contact us if you plan on helping.



Right: Cars line up early to take advantage of PSMC's Detailing Day, while Tom Smith (below) works almost non-stop to make sure no one leaves with a dingy car. Photos by Sean McGriff.



*If it wasn't for this crew, there would be NO Detailin' Day! This year, let's give the guys a little respect and not butt into the front of the lunch line before we give them a chance to eat! Photo by Sean McGriff.*

## upcoming events

# 20th Annual Historic Racing at Pacific Raceways

July 4-6, 2008

PSMC Coordinator: Mike Springer

The Society of Vintage Racing Enthusiasts (SOVREN) and the SOVREN Guild of Children's Hospital, has announced the racing dates for the 20th Annual Pacific Northwest Historics July 4-6th. To be held at Pacific Raceways, formerly Seattle International Raceway. All proceeds benefit uncompensated care at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle. Over the last 13 years, almost \$3.5 million dollars has been raised at the races. **Due to the interest in both the featured Marque and the celebrity guest this year, the "Car Corral" may sell out early. Therefore, I have moved up the ticket order cut off to May 15<sup>th</sup>.** Please use a ticket order form either from the website or email Mike Springer at: [springerphoto@wamail.net](mailto:springerphoto@wamail.net)

Our club will be in the "car corral" on Saturday the 5th and Sunday the 6th giving us the opportunity to show our cars to the general public and take a few parade laps around the racecourse during the lunch break intermission. There will be lots to see and the pits are open to the public.

The Featured Marque this year will be Porsche celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The first car was produced in June of 1948 and scored a first in class victory only weeks later at the Innsbruck City Race. Among the many victories and World Championships gathered since, perhaps most significant has been Porsche's record of 15 overall wins in the oldest endurance race, Le Mans. Many rare racing examples are expected to make an appearance as well as retired champion drivers who now race in the "historics".

The celebrity guest will be Al Unser Sr., one of the legends of American racing and a member of a storied racing family. He first raced in the Indy 500 in 1965 winning in 1970, 1971 and as the oldest driver to win Indianapolis in 1987 at 47 years old (breaking his brother Bobby's record). A versatile driver, Al has posted wins on paved ovals, road courses, and dirt tracks in a single season. An honored member of the Motorsports Hall of Fame, Al Unser Sr. compiled a record of thirty nine wins on the Indy Car Circuit. He will be signing autographs during the week end.

The "Pacific Northwest Historics" features many of the world's rarest and most beautiful pre-1970 race cars. This year, more than 250 vintage racecars are expected to enter. Favorites include Ferraris, Lotuses, Cobras, Corvettes, Porsches, Austin Healeys and some less recognizable names like Elva, Ginetta, and McLaren. Most are in mint condition through extensive restoration and many attain speeds in excess of 150 miles per hour. Some of the cars are valued at over \$1 million and many have impressive racing histories. Competitors come from all over the West Coast and Canada. The wheel-to-wheel competition on the challenging 2 ¼-mile road course includes nine turns, 200-300 foot elevation drop and a near ¾-mile straight-away.

*Historics continued next column*



*Historics continued from previous column*

Gates open at 8:30 am. The cost is \$25 per car and driver each day; passengers are also \$25 per day. Passes for all three days are \$40 driver and car or passenger. Each club is limited to 20 cars per day; so the tickets will be on a first-come basis. **The deadline for ticket reservations will be May 15<sup>th</sup>.** You will be sent the tickets in the mail before the event. When you arrive you will be directed at the gate to the area the club will be in.

To make reservations: use an order form, send a check (made out to Mike Springer with Historics 08 in the memo section) for the total amount and enclose a stamped self addressed envelope. If you have an email address, send it as well so I can acknowledge the receipt of your payment. Give me a call - or better yet - send an email if you have questions or need a registration form. The club website [www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org) will have an application to download, fill out and send as well.

Event coordinator:  
Mike Springer  
2214 South Melrose Street  
Tacoma, WA 98405  
(cell phone) 253-468-5291  
[springerphoto@wamail.net](mailto:springerphoto@wamail.net)

## Mt. St. Helens Run

Saturday, June 15, 2008 @ 8 AM

County Cousin Restaurant

Centralia, located off I-5, exit 82

Hosted by A.J. & Vicki McGranaghan



This day trip is a Miata owner's dream in that it allows high speed, windy avenues of approach with many great views. The trip will begin in Centralia, starting off with a great breakfast at the Country Cousin Restaurant located at exit 82 (Harrison Ave & Outlet Malls) off of I-5. Meeting time for breakfast will commence at 8:00 AM on Sunday, June 15, 2008. A driver's meeting will start at or about 9:15 AM for those not wishing to join us for breakfast.

Before leaving Centralia, it is recommended that you purchase a lunch and a drink. The trip will then depart Centralia at or about 9:30 AM, proceeding South on I-5 to the Castle Rock exit (exit 49) and then proceed East on Hwy 504 through Silver Lake, Toutle and Kid Valley on our way to the volcano observatory. The distance from Castle Rock to the observatory is approximately 45 miles, with many opportunities to stop along the way at some great vistas and interactive centers prior to

*Mt. St. Helens continued on page 10*

## 27th Annual Laconner Tulip Daffodil Rallye

Saturday, April 26, 2008 @ 9:30 AM (Rallye Start); Cascade Mall, I-5 exit 230

Hosted by MGCCNWC



Come all – We are back for our 27<sup>th</sup> running of the LaConner Tulip Daffodil Rallye.

Each car club (3 car minimum) will have a **First Place** finish for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual LaConner Daffodil Rallye. Non-club entrants can win in the “open” class. You and your navigator will enjoy spectacular scenery while touring; so don’t leave your camera behind.

This event is a gimmick rallye, where questions take the place of time/distance checkpoints, so anyone should be able to compete successfully. All you need is a sharp eye and a sense of humor. Please note – speed is **not** recommended! You can eat lunch at the Casino or pack a picnic lunch to enjoy at the end point while the scores are being tabulated.

Please fill out the form (located at [www.mgccnwc.com/tulip.htm](http://www.mgccnwc.com/tulip.htm)) and send it along with \$12.00 U.S. or \$12.00 Canadian per car to: Tulip Rallye, c/o K. Bottini, 12835 N.E. 36<sup>th</sup> St., Bellevue, WA 98005-1323. You can register the day of the event, but cost will be \$15.00 U.S. or Canadian. Please remember to bring along some canned food for donation to Northwest Harvest. For more information, call Ken Bottini @ (425) 883-9615 or day of the event (425) 577-8613.

Directions: From I-5, take exit 230 and head east on Hwy 20. Take a right at the stoplight onto So. Burlington Blvd. Take a right at the next light onto Cascade Mall drive. All rallye information and car numbers will be issued on the day of the Rallye.



May 23-25, 2008  
Kelowna, B.C.

Hosted by Okanagan Valley Miata Club

Topless Sun Run Registration is now open!

The Okanagan Valley Miata Club has another great Topless Sun Run planned for 2008. However, to follow our special BIG event of last year, we are doing a complete u-turn and making this year’s event a bit . . . make that a whole lot . . . more cozy. For 2008, registration will be limited to 180 people.

New events include a tailgate party on Friday night. We’ll fire up the BBQ from 5:00pm until 8:00pm, serving burgers, salad and refreshments while we mingle and have a good look at all the fantastic Miatas. We will also have a second drive on Sunday, starting with a great breakfast/brunch at the hotel prior to the run.

The main event will take everyone to the scenic Naramata, on the east side of Okanagan Lake near Penticton. Naramata is a small agriculture town filled with orchards and vineyards and boasting of the best wineries in the Okanagan Valley. Lunch and a Show and Shine will be at the beautiful Manitou Park.

The entry fee for 2008 will be \$50.00 Canadian per person and includes a variety of events and meals. It is recommended since this year’s event is limited, that you register early.

For more information, go to <http://okmiataclub.com/sunrun/sunrun.htm>

## Coming in October



October 2-5, 2008  
Leavenworth, WA

Hosted by  
Club Miata NW

PSMC members are invited to attend Backroads to Bavaria. Held in conjunction with Oktoberfest in Leavenworth, WA, it is one of the largest and longest running Miata annual events. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we hope it to be a grand event. Furthermore, an additional day has been added to allow for more activities! **Four days of Miata/MX5 fun!** This will mean more drives, tours, games, and general fun for Miata/MX5 enthusiasts.

Tom Matano, former Executive Designer at Mazda, and a member of the Miata/MX5 design team will be our special guest. He’ll be sharing his experiences as a designer of the Miata/MX5 and available to chat and share your Miata enthusiasm

Due to the special nature of this year’s event, having Tom Matano, and extending the event by an additional day; it is anticipated Backroads to Bavaria will meet the maximum capacity quickly. The Enzian Inn, Alpine Rivers Inn, and the Linderhoff Inn all have a block of rooms set aside for the 3 nights. However, registration will be available only to the first 250 participants, so if you plan on attending, register now!

A detailed flyer and registration form are found at Club Miata Northwest’s website at [www.clubmiata.com](http://www.clubmiata.com)

---

## event aftermath

### The “Unofficial” Social

aka: Farewell to John Mann

By Bonnie Lohkamp

Larry and I were supposed to host the January Social at our house on Saturday, January 12 in Everett. However, due to a scheduling error on my part, we had to cancel the event. Well, as you know, the best laid plans can go astray and the other gathering that we were supposed to attend was cancelled. After which, I got a phone call from Frank Shriver who had originally RSVP'd to the social and then cancelled due to a scheduling conflict he had. He told me that he and Carol had been able to rearrange their schedule and now they would be able to come to the social. So here we are, 3 days before the original social date . . . and what do we do now???? Not a problem. I merely called the folks that had already RSVP'd and we all got together and had the “unofficial” event.

About 10 folks showed up at the house, and we all enjoyed chicken cooked two different ways, along with some Cajun shrimp. Everyone brought a side dish, a dessert or an appetizer along with their own beverage. A great time was had by all as we watched the football playoffs and had some great conversations afterwards.

It was a great send off for John Mann as he moved to Arkansas at the end of January to join his wife Linda. Linda has been there since October since she got a job on the spot when they went back there last year to look at the house they had purchased.

Larry and I will miss the twin to our Blazing Yellow Mica in parades and on many of the drives.

---

### Fill ‘er up!

By Bonnie Lohkamp

Our calendar for the New Year is starting to fill up!

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, PSMC had their second planning meeting at Los Potrillos Mexican restaurant in Everett on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-plus folks showed up even with the threat of snow later in the day (which never really came about except for snow mixed with rain). We met at 11:00 AM and enjoyed some great food before starting the meeting at noon. The new events that were added for the year included a March Social (March 8<sup>th</sup>), a St. Paddy's Day Run (March 16<sup>th</sup>), an April Social (April 19<sup>th</sup>), the Olympic Peninsula Run (April 26 & 27), a May Social (May 17<sup>th</sup>), a Whidbey Island Tour (August 16<sup>th</sup>), and a Progressive Dinner slated for September 13<sup>th</sup>. A.J. McGranaghan confirmed his date for the Mt. St. Helen's Run for June 15<sup>th</sup> and Sean McGriff will be back with his Turkey Teaser on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Things are starting to look very exciting. Some months even have an event or two every weekend, so it's time to start planning now to have a very adventurous summer with your Miata family.

Of course there is always room for more, so don't hesitate to plan something and have it added to the calendar.

### Board Happenings

By Charlotte Fellers

On Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, a quorum of board members met for an early lunch and planning meeting at Los Portillos in Everett; the January board meeting followed. For those of you interested, here is what was discussed:

The board decided to move the annual Holiday Party from the Renton Community Center, where it was held for several years, to the Ballinger Lake Golf Club in Mountlake Terrace. Board members believe it is time for a change of venue and want to move it to a more northern locale for the upcoming year. The golf club has a meeting room with a nice wood floor and space to accommodate up to 200 people. The view of the lake and golf course is breathtaking! Make a note that the 2008 Holiday Party will be Dec. 6 in the evening.

Another important decision was made to change the names of the officers to President, Vice-President (formerly the past president or CEO), Secretary and Treasurer. This will make these job titles easier to remember. Mindy Bohnas, who takes over as President after Bonnie Lohkamp's tenure ends this year, has worked with Director Bill Bell to make some proposed changes to the constitution. Other recommendations will be presented at a future board meeting, with notice to appear in a future edition of the Sounder.

President Bonnie Lohkamp announced that Randy Umemoto is giving up data coordinator at the end of the fiscal year. She has appointed Sean McGriff to be the new data coordinator. He will assume duties by June 1.

The board also discussed the planning phase of Detailin' Day. Keep in mind that the annual Detailin' Day is just around the corner. Our host for this event, Bill Cooper, opens his property and his home for everyone to gather and shine up their cars for the summer season. However, he needs some help! Detailin' Day is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> this year, but Coop would like some help with cleaning up his garage and setting up buffing stations. Those of you who have attended the Detailin' Day at Coop's house know how nice it is to have six to eight buffing stations and volunteers who are willing to put in a day buffing the Miatas. Now is the time to “give back” by volunteering to help Coop get ready for this event. Contact Bonnie Lohkamp at blohkamp@comcast.net to add your name to the list to be contacted when Coop begins his garage spring cleanup.

The board heard a report from a budget subcommittee that met a week before the board meeting to explore what changes the board needs to make so we don't need to raise dues. Many options were discussed, but fortunately, with the continuing support of the annual Miatacross event, which is our main fundraiser, a dues increase is not proposed for at least the rest of this year. Trimming expenses from the Holiday Party was the most important recommendation. The board voted to ask the President to prepare a budget for various board-sponsored events and appoint subcommittees to plan the events and make decisions on behalf of the board so expenses for these events can be stabilized. Board-sponsored events include Detailin' Day, the Annual Northwest Gathering, and the Annual Holiday Party.

*Board continued on page 12*

# An End and A Beginning

By Denise Williamson



The 2007 autocross season has come to an end, but we haven't put it behind us just yet. No autocross season is complete without "Coneheads," the yearly awards banquet for WWSCC and SCCA.

Many PSMC members won awards this year. From the SCCA series (best six of eight), we had winners in three classes. In the Street Mod 2 class, **Brett Wilson** and **Enrique Garcia** took first and second place, respectively. **Dieter Beldi** took first in Stock 3, while **Glen Hernandez** took first in OPAX. In the SCCA ProSolo series, **Dieter Beldi** placed third in Stock 3, **Glen Hernandez** placed first in Stock 1, **Brett Wilson** placed first in Street Mod 2, and **Enrique Garcia** placed second in Street Mod 2.

From the WWSCC Series (best six of eight), there were PSMC winners in two classes. In Open Street **Bob Bundy** placed first, and **Dieter Beldi** placed second. **Rich Blake** placed first in Stock C. **TJ McGeary** won "Novice of the Year". You may have noticed that other Novice trophies are not given out. This is because you are considered a "novice" for three events only. After that, you must find a different class to run in.

BSCC, which hands out their awards at a different time than Coneheads, also had some PSMC members receive awards. **Tom Slipp** and **Chris Halstead** placed third and fifth respectively in the Sports C Class, and **Dieter Beldi** placed first in the Large Sedan class.

Speaking of BSCC and SCCA, don't forget that they will be putting on Novice Schools this year. For further details, you can get links via the calendar at [wwscc.org](http://wwscc.org). Although they are "autocross schools", you don't have to intend to autocross to take these schools. They are great for beginning car control. And, no offense, but many folks could use this school!

The first autocross of 2008 has already taken place. 89 drivers braved the ice and the snowy forecast to autocross at Everett on January 27. Fortunately, it did not snow, although it was plenty cold enough to do so. Among the brave souls were PSMC members **Alan Dahl** (fourth place in PRO1), **Dieter Beldi** (first place in Stock D), and **John Kabigting** (seventh in Street Tire 3).

The 2008 season is shaping up to be as fun as ever. Come on out and give it a try!



Guess who? At WWSCC and SCCA's yearly banquet. Photo by Denise Williamson.



Dieter Beldi, T.J. McGeary and Allan Dahl at "Coneheads," the yearly banquet for WWSCC and SCCA. Photo by Denise Williamson

## March Autocross

For details see [wwscc.org](http://wwscc.org)

- 2 BSCC Novice School @ Bremerton Raceways
- 4 BSCC Monthly Meeting @ Tony's Pizza, Bremerton
- 9 WWSCC ACE Slush #3 – Alan's Crazy Experiment @ Bremerton Raceway
- 11 NWR/SCCA Solo Committee Meeting @ Goldie's Airport Way
- 14 BSCC "Member Day" @ Bremerton Raceway
- 15-16 SCCA San Diego National Tour @ Qualcomm Stadium
- 16 BSCC Event #1 @ Bremerton Raceway
- 17 WWSCC Council Meeting @ Goldie's Airport Way
- 22 WWSCC Slush Banquet @ Bison Creek Pizza
- 23 WWSCC UWFSAE Dawg Dash @ TBA
- 29-30 SCCA El Toro ProSolo @ El Toro, CA



## So You Want to Plan a Tour?

By Cindy Smith

*Ed.Note: The following article (with a little editing) first ran in November 2006. However, I thought perhaps the article would be informative to those of you who might want to advantage of the new PSMC Event Host Rewards. For more information on PSMC's new rewards, check out Charlotte Fellers article on pg. 10.*

The last thing I was going to do when Tom and I joined PSMC in September 2000 was to put on a run. However, some things just seem to have a mind of their own. Like when I told Tom that, sure, okay, let's join the club, but let's just take it slow and enjoy the events; let's not get too involved, and before we knew it, Tom was on the board. And then we did a run, then another and another and another and before I knew it I was on the board and then somehow I became president and then I became editor. Whoa! Talk about things snowballing.

Well, I promise you, that if you would like to organize a run, you don't have to be nominated for president or volunteer to take over the editorship of the Sounder. All you have to do is have a little creativity and a whole lot of fun.

I remember the first run Tom and I ever put on for the club. We had been thinking of doing a run but had yet to **come up with an idea**. When we did, it was a bit of a fluke. I was into genealogy at the time and was hunting down "lost" ancestors buried away in hidden cemeteries for people from different regions. As Tom and I were driving down this wonderful, twisty back road looking for a cemetery, I made the comment, "With all the neat roads we've been on today, we ought to put on a graveyard tour." Never, I repeat never, say a statement like that around Tom; because the next thing I knew, Tom had **put the run on the calendar**, and voila! the Graveyard-to-Graveyard Tour was good to go.

But boy, did we have fun! **Planning out the route** was pretty simple; it was just a matter of which cemetery would be first and which route would be the most fun in a Miata. The Snohomish County Thomas Guide came in perfect in helping us with that. Consulting the Guide – and maps in general – really helped us to **minimize left-hand turns**. It can get really scary when you are trying to get large groups across busy intersections. Then of course, since the tour was over 80 miles, and since folks really enjoyed getting out and exploring the cemeteries (I did have them looking for particular graves), there was the issue of where to **find "relief stations"** as there is only so much coffee the body can handle. Finally, to make sure the route was flawless there were the pre-runs. To **do a pre-run** is a given must in any tour. Problem with maps is that roads are changing all the time. I can't tell you how many times we've mapped out a route only to find out a road no longer exists. Of course with me being nervous about my first run, I think I did about six pre-runs in all. By the time the tour actually came, I was down right dreading doing the drive.

For me, the hardest part of putting together a tour is to **find a restaurant that can accommodate a large group** on a busy



*Visiting Bayview Cemetery in Bellingham on the author's 2006 Haunted Places Tour. Photo by Tom Smith.*

Saturday or Sunday afternoon, especially one **that will take separate checks**. You can't have a tour without eating at the end; I mean that's what this club is all about: driving, eating and fellowship. But you know, for all the tours we have put together, we've always managed to find one.

While finding the restaurant may be my hardest task in putting together a run, my favorite part is to **organize the run**. I love putting together "detailed directions." With the Graveyard Tour, I put together a booklet complete with driving directions and all the histories of the cemeteries and their pioneer inhabitants that we would be visiting. Karen Perry, our veteran co-host for the event, sadly told me, though, that most people wouldn't read it, so I came up with a quiz and prizes for all the right answers. (Guess what? They read the booklet.) Then we came up with toe-tags to attach on the booklets from the LA Coroner's Gift Shop (yes, they do have one) along with a variety of tacky prizes. With our Haunted Places Tours, Tom even cuts a CD of Halloween tunes. However, putting on a run doesn't need to be that detailed. Tours in this club have ranged from the elaborate Cheap N Cheezies that the Umemotos and Coopers put on to the laid-back, impromptu "Can Your Miata Come Out And Play" Runs. Shoot, with us, you can always tell if it is a "Cindy Run" or a "Tom Run" just by the directions we hand out – that is, if we hand out directions (Tom Run!).

Finally, before the actual tour, we made sure to **learn PSMC's Guidelines to Caravanning**, which is covered in PSMC's pamphlet, *Road Wise* and which comes in everyone's new member packets. Knowing how to breadcrumb, running with your parking lights on, maintaining a good separation between cars (called accordioning) and learning how to do a proper "LeMan's Start" (where all the cars pull on to the road in unison and which most often becomes the "Arkansas Start," as Tom likes to call it) really helps to keep a run safe and fun.

All in all, it has been very rewarding putting on runs for this club. So if you've ever been cruising down the back roads and thought "Hey, this would make a neat drive for the club," or if you have an idea for a run in mind, why not **come on down to one of our planning meetings** (or give a holler to one of our board members) and see about getting your feet wet. I promise they won't bite and I promise that if you need any help in any part of the tour (planning, pre-running, restaurant finding, co-hosting), that one of our board members can find an "old timer" who can help you.

Well, hope to see you all on a run real soon. Better yet, hope to be on one of **your** runs real soon!

## Familiar Faces

Try a new Miata Event this year!

Lawrence & Sandra Bicknell	00 Silver	7 yrs
Enrique Garcia	95 Montego Blue	7 yrs
Bruce & Janet Haskin	03 Garnet Red	12 yrs
Nathan & Casey Allan	90 Red	4 yrs
Jeannette Ostro & Brian Dose	95 Red	2 yrs
Bill Read	93 Black LE	14 yrs
Robert & Marti Mott	03 Garnet Red	5 yrs
Chris Stollery	94 Black	5 yrs
Steve & Janice Vollmer	00 White	2 yrs
Kim Shellabarger	99 Black	8 yrs
Vic Snyder	91 BRG	8 yrs
Dennis & Nellie Butterfield	90 White	3 yrs
Dave & Vicki Nelson	92 Mariner Blue	14 yrs
Thomas & Cindy Millar	01 BRG	3 yrs
Dawn & Jay Mercer	94 Red	2 yrs
Ron & Julie Krohmer	08 Copper Red Mica	14 yrs
David Day	91 White	8 yrs
Dawn Hayes & Paul Jaeger	01 BRG	6 yrs
James & Sally Hightchew	97 Black	9 yrs
Steve & Linda Birman	00 Emerald Mica	7 yrs
Keith & Gayle Newsom	93 White	13 yrs
Larry & Liane Long	99 Green	7 yrs
Murray & Catherine Williams	93 Red	4 yrs
Thom & Judy Rohm	99 Midnight Blue	2 yrs
David & June McFarland	92 Silver	15 yrs
Tom Peetz	93 Silver RX7	15 yrs
Gary & Janice Johnson	95 Merlot	9 yrs
Bert & Rhonda Paul	01 Red	5 yrs
John & Barb Young	00 Mahogany Mica	7 yrs
T.J. McGeary	91 BRG	1 yr

*Mt. St. Helens continued from pg 5*

arriving at the Johnston Observatory. At the conclusion of our time spent at the Observatory (about 1 ½ to 2 hrs), we will retrace our way back down westward on Hwy 504 and conclude our outing somewhere in Castle Rock. A total time elapsed from our breakfast meeting to the conclusion at Castle Rock will be about 5 to 6 hours. This will prove to be a great day out with beautiful scenery and great roads. We hope you can join us!

## New Faces

We hope to meet you at an event soon!

*By Randy Umemoto*



Christine Valdez  
& Kurt Batdorf Mt Vernon, WA 94 Laguna Blue

Sara &  
Gordon Moorman Ravensdale, WA 99 Emerald Green

## PSMC's New Reward System

*By Charlotte Fellers*

Do you enjoy joining drives that others plan? Do you enjoy hanging out with your Miata Club friends? Have you ever thought about planning an event of your own?

Well, you should! The PSMC Board voted in November to set up a reward system that acknowledges the hard work and expense that goes into planning a fun drive. If you host two or more drives as the only host, you will receive a free membership to the PSMC for one year. If you co-host those drives, you can get 50 percent off your annual PSMC dues. If you host two or more drives with two other co-hosts, you can get a third off your annual PSMC dues. The board will recognize those who earn the rewards at the annual Holiday Party. If you are one of them, you will receive a certificate that you can submit with your annual renewal.

So go ahead and plan an activity or a drive! If you plan it, they will come! Worried about getting lost? Contact a board member for assistance on how to plan an activity or drive. We still have lots of open dates for potential activities this year. Check out the back page of the Sounder for activities that are already on the calendar and start creating your adventure!

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*

*Russ Dunmire Mazda of Tacoma (253) 473-2440*

*University Mazda of Seattle (206) 634-1191*

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

# President's Message

By Bonnie Lohkamp  
PSMC President



Here we are with another month gone by. Can you believe it is already March? Daylight Savings time will be starting this month, so we will have more time to drive our cars in the daylight hours. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and we can get our tops down. I know I am tired of the rain and snow. The cold gray weather has run its course as far as I am concerned.

We had a planning meeting in January (see article for details) and many new events have been put on the calendar. Things are starting to shape up with many months having one or two events every weekend. Of course, there is always room for more, so if anyone has any plans, please go ahead and submit them to be put on the calendar.

Looking at March, we have the First Friday Formal on March 7<sup>th</sup> in Tacoma hosted by the Gores. That is followed by the March Social on Whidbey Island hosted by Shriver/Kus, and then a St Paddy's Day Run on the 16<sup>th</sup> hosted by Ohlsen/Cooper. We also have a Nominating Meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> (see article), so now is the time to think about coming on the club's board. If you have ever thought about being on the board but not sure what it entails, please contact me at blohkamp@comcast.net and I can give you some insight.

Detailing Day/New Member's Day will be in May at Coop's Miata in Maple Valley. Please notice that there are two weekends in April set aside to help Coop get his place ready for this event. Check the calendar and if you are available, we could use your help on either one (or both) of those weekends. Coop gives so much to the club by allowing the use his home for so many events and asks for so little in return. It is the least we can do to show our appreciation by helping get his work area and grounds ready for this event. You can contact Coop for further information

I would also like to thank Sean McGriff for coming forward to take on the position of Database Coordinator. He will be meeting with Randy Umemoto this month so he can get filled in on all the particulars.

An especially big thank you to Randy for handling this job for so many years and being so diligent in getting all the many aspects of his job done on time and done correctly. Of course, we must also thank Rosa for helping out with this and providing those wonderful meals for the folks that would come and help stuff envelopes. Their dedication goes way above and beyond.

Okay, see you all next month; got to go back to early spring house cleaning. With the weather as crummy as it is, I might as well get it done now because when the sunshine comes out, I'll be out driving around in either my 94 Laguna Blue (SMMRTME) or with Larry in his 02 Blazing Yellow Mica (BAITHOG). Plus, there is vacation to get ready for. A nice trip down to see our former club members, John and Linda Mann, who have now settled in Arkansas, is scheduled for April. And who knows what your soon-to-be-retired president may find in a way of their new home while they are there!



## OFFICERS/DIRECTORS WEB COMMITTEE

### CHIEF OFFICERS

Operating \_\_\_\_\_ Bonnie Lohkamp  
Executive \_\_\_\_\_ Mindy Bohnas  
Communications \_\_\_\_\_ Dannie Brandt  
Financial \_\_\_\_\_ Sean McGriff

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Bill Bell Bill Cooper Allan Ohlsen  
Mindy Bohnas Charlotte Fellers Randy Umemoto  
Mark Brandt Jim Hightchew Rosa Umemoto  
Christy Castro Gayle Lazur

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

Insurance Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Dannie Brandt  
Data Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Randy Umemoto  
Parade Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Bonnie Lohkamp  
Sounder Editor \_\_\_\_\_ Cindy Smith  
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](http://pugetsoundmiataclub.org) or send your name, address and check for \$30 (annual chapter dues) to:

**Puget Sound Miata Club**  
3901 SW Hanford  
Seattle WA 98116

# 2008 Calendar

For details about these events or to **RSVP**, check out the Calendar at [pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://pugetsoundmiataclub.org)

## March 2008

- 7 First Friday Formal, hosted by Gores (Event Full)
- 8 March Social, hosted by Kus/Shriver (see pg 2)
- 16 Dogging the Green Rabbit, hosted by Cooper & Ohlsen (see pg 1)



## April 2008

- 5 Nominating Meeting, hosted by PSMC (see pg 3)
- 19 April Social, hosted by Lazur (see pg 2)
- 20 CdO Rallye, hosted by Corvettes de Olympia (see pg 3)
- 19-20 Detailing Day Clean Up
- 26 27th Annual LaConner Tulip Daffodil Rallye, hosted by MGCCNWC (see pg 6)
- 26-27 Detailing Day Setup
- 26-27 Olympic Peninsula Tour, hosted by McGranaghan & Millar (see pg 5)

## May 2008

- 3 Detailin' Day, hosted by Cooper (see pg 3 & 4)
- 10 Sequim Parade
- 17 Poulsbo Parade
- 23-25 Okanagan Topless Sun Run, Kelowna, Canada hosted by OVMC (see pg 6)
- 31 Shelton Parade

## June 2008

- 7 Sunset Auto Tour, hosted by Ohlsen
- 14 PSMC Elections, hosted by PSMC Board
- 15 Mt. St. Helen Run, hosted by McGranaghan (see pg 5)
- 21 Marysville Strawberry Festival Parade (Tentative)
- 28 Port Orchard Parade

## July 2008

- 4 Kingston Fourth of July Parade
- 12 Mercer Island Parade
- 13 Hurricane Ridge, hosted by Bell
- 19 Lakefair Parade and BBQ, hosted by Allen
- 20 Chinatown Parade
- 26 Silverdale Parade
- 26 Torchlight Parade

### *Board continued from page 7*

The budget subcommittee also recommended the board track the cost of giving away memberships annually to those who sponsor events. This year, the impact to the budget is about \$300. At some future point, if this becomes enough to make a difference in the budget, then the board will take another look at these decisions.

## August 2008

- 3 Miatacross (Tentative), organized by McGriff
- 9 Run to Mt. Baker, hosted by Bell and Sea-to-Sky Miata Club (Vancouver, BC)
- 16 Whidbey Island Run, hosted by Kus, Shriver & Lohkmap
- 23 PSMC Gathering @ Coop's, hosted by PSMC
- 30 LeMay Open House
- 31 South Bend Labor Day Parade and Run

## September 2008

- 6 Mukilteo Parade
- 13 Progressive Dinner, hosted by Fellers, McSherry & Ohlsen
- 27 Leavenworth Autumn Leaf Parade
- 28 North Cascades Hwy Tour, hosted by Lohkamp

## October 2008

- 2-5 Backroads to Bavaria, hosted by Club Miata Northwest (see pg 6)
- 3 First Friday Formal, hosted by Lazur
- 11 Corn Maze Run, hosted by Fellers
- 31 Bremerton Safe Trick or Treat, hosted by Bohnas

## November 2008

- 8 Southend Planning Meeting, hosted by PSMC
- 23 Turkey Teaser, hosted by McGriff

## December 2008

- 6 PSMC Holiday Party, hosted by PSMC

## Classifieds

### Parts

Escort / Miata 1.8 block: Free!  
Good 1.8 Miata Crank: \$50 or . . . obo  
Roadstersport Midpipe (exhaust) from Goodwin Racing; Fits '99-05 Miata: \$175  
Contact Dale Weber at (425) 422-8430 or email him at [dale.regena@verizon.net](mailto:dale.regena@verizon.net)