

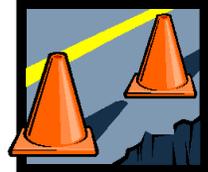
MIATA SOUNDER

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



PSMC's Miatacross Loses Venue!

Time to put on your thinking caps and dig in your pockets as PSMC's biggest - and only - fundraiser may not happen this year.



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Boeing Everett Parking lot now unavailable

By Denise Williamson

The Boeing-Everett "Site Leadership Team" has removed, effective immediately, the permission for all Autosports Club and the Boeing Karting Club to use the Everett parking lots for their events. The Leadership Team's communication indicates that it is using a new Risk Model matrix to assess activities throughout the site, and Autosports and Karting were deemed to pose risks of concern based upon a variety of factors. It should be understood that the Everett site in particular is feeling the pressure of the 787 program. Boeing is, after all, in the business of building airplanes (and a bunch of other things), not providing big parking lots for us. Nobody should blame Boeing for this decision or in any way contact anyone there about it; we don't want to burn any bridges.

This decision, which BEAC had absolutely no control over or even influence on, obviously means that there will be no WWSCC events co-hosted with BEAC on Boeing Everett parking lots unless something unexpectedly changes. BEAC is continuing to pursue its options for its club and possible co-hosted events (i.e. we are starting with Boeing-related sites but not limiting ourselves to them), and will keep the WWSCC Council apprised of any progress. WW clubs are highly encouraged to be pursuing their own sites for their intended events this year.

If you have suggestions for possible autocross sites, please contact PSMC's WWSCC Representative, Dieter Beldi at autocross2@pugetsoundmiataclub.org. Please do not contact site owners.



*Happy Days at Miatacross:
Above right: starting lineup at 2005; photo by Maury Fugitt
Above left: Jesse Fuller at Miatacross 2006; photo by Denise Williamson
Right: Cisco Castro gives some advice to Christy Castro at last year's Miatacross; photo by Randy Umemoto*





MIATA SOUNDER

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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:

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ADVERTISING

Classified - member free
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pugetsoundmiataclub.org

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

upcoming events

PSMC Parades

For more info, go to
www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org

- May 10 Sequim Parade
- May 17 Viking Fest Parade in Paulsbo



May is just around the corner and our first parade of the season will be on Saturday, May 10th in Sequim, quickly followed by the Viking Fest Parade in Paulsbo the following weekend.

So don't delay; now is the time to bring your freshly detailed and shiny cars (courtesy of Detailing Day) and give our club the great exposure we get from these parades. Plus we get to provide our communities a great service and have fun at the same time.

If you have never participated in a parade, or if you have questions about participating in one, please feel free to contact Bonnie at blohkamp@comcast.net the new co-parade coordinator Dan White at pooh@sillyoldbear.com. We would love to have you join us!!!

Upcoming PSMC 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



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 43rd Street in Renton at 11AM on Saturday, April 5th. (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 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, Mindy Bohnas at fun4sun@wavecable.com or Bill Bell at 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

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



Left: 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.



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.

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 half a dozen 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 2nd light on the Maple Valley Hwy 169; go about 9 miles; Right at the light onto SE 231st St; Up the hill to SE 210th 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 231st St; Up the hill to SE 210th 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; Click calendar, then May, then RSVP on Detailin Day

See you on the 3rd 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.



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 15th.** Please use a ticket order form either from the website or email Mike Springer at: 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 60th 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 1/4-mile road course includes nine turns, 200-300 foot elevation drop and a near 3/4-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 15th.** 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 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

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, winding 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

4th Annual Run to South Bend

Sunday, August 31, 2008

Your PSMC Hosts: Bob & Sally Thomas

Puget Sound Miata Club and Corvettes de Olympia will again join forces for a road run to the "Come and Play on Labor Day" parade and street fair at South Bend, WA. This year's is the Miatas's turn to lead the tour.

New Start location: We will depart from the area of Shelton, WA about 9:15AM for the road run over some lightly-traveled local twisty pavement. We plan the traditional "pit stops" at Montesano and/or Raymond. Your hosts are working on a pre-launch breakfast venue as well; details to be announced over the summer.

We'll arrive at South Bend about noon and clean the bugs off the cars. Bring your usual parade décor and mobile car-cleaning kits. Parade should start at 1:00PM. We may carry or escort dignitaries, as assigned by the committee. There are traditionally free hot dogs and sodas at the finish line for the participants, and then we cool down at local establishments before heading home (or to other weekend activities).

This event is ALL about driving down great sports car roads on a brisk morning of late summer or early fall. Our public service in supporting the South Bend parade is just an added attraction. Please register on the club website so the hosts have an accurate count of participants.

Red Wine & Chocolates!

By Charlotte Fellers

Seven and sometimes more, Miatas and other cars, met at the Lost Mountain Winery to begin the annual Red Wine and Chocolate tour in the Sequim area Feb 17. Formerly hosted by Tom and Cindy Smith, this annual tour has been a crowd-pleaser for years. This year, though, the tour was hosted by Tom and Lindanne Gores. While the weather was just slightly too chilly for a "top down" event, no one had complaints, since the sun was in and out all afternoon.

The Lost Mountain Winery takes drivers up a road that winds around into the hillside and offers sweeping views of the entire mountain range bordering Sequim. In fact, this winery is literally at the end of the road and can't take buses or campers because it ends on a one lane road. But once there, all agreed that the chocolates offered at this stop were some of the best on this year's tour, while other stops offered best overall food (more on that later). Oh, and they had some excellent wines, too!

Our second stop was following a rather cumbersome U-turn on a busy 101 North to arrive shortly after at the Olympic Cellars. If

Red wine continued next column



Image from
www.northsoundwineries.com

Red wine continued from previous column

you've not been here in past years, you might not know how much their wines have improved in taste. This winery is owned by three women who have hired a French winemaker for their "Working Girl" line of wines. Housed in a barn that's more than 100 years old, this was not only a fun stop but also a pleasant surprise.

The third wine stop was the Black Diamond Winery, which featured an unusual Strawberry-Rhubarb Wine that was paired with some primo extra-dark chocolate. Most of the wines at this winery featured a variety of fruits, such as plums, rhubarb, raspberries, and loganberries to create unusual tasting blends.

Fourth on the wine tour was the most popular stop for food, the Harbinger Winery. This winery drew the biggest crowd (were they just following us?) that we encountered on the annual Red Wine and Chocolate Tour. The food table (for those who didn't eat any lunch) featured a variety of cheeses, meats, crackers, chocolate samples, and several dips to create unusual pairings for wine tasting. This winery boasted an excellent cranberry wine that all agreed would go nicely with the Thanksgiving turkey. In addition, a harpist entertained with background music during our tasting, creating a very cozy and welcome atmosphere. Obviously, this was our longest stop!

The final wine tasting stop was at the Camaraderie Cellars, which featured a picturesque setting (we took our picture here!) and had some excellent offerings of reds with fabulous chocolate cookies. Maybe it was later in the day or maybe we just didn't notice, but tasting pours seemed pretty generous at this stage of the game!

Finally, it was Bushwacker's Seafood Restaurant or bust...so we chose the restaurant. After an afternoon of chocolate, nibbles, and a fair amount of wine, we were ready for some solid food. This restaurant had a something for everyone, providing a great end to a great day.

Fun at the March Social

By Bonnie Lohkamp



In the early evening hours on Saturday, March 8th, PSMC's latest Social was held at the gorgeous home of Frank Shriver and Carol Kus on Whidbey Island. Although it was a small group that attended this event, the evening proved lively. Carol's famous chili was absolutely delicious and all agreed that her special cake, which had a most unusual name and not fit for print in this paper, was great. There were also lots of appetizers and libations to drink. We even had a newcomer couple come to this social: longtime member and current board member, Jim Hightchew, who brought along his bride Sally. As usual, there was great conversation and it was well after 10PM before we knew it. At that time, we all made a dash to catch the Clinton ferry home (at least that ferry is still running two boats in one piece so far).

Looking forward to the next social in April at Gayle Lazor's home. Come join us if you have a chance. Make sure you check the website for details.

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 27th running of the LaConner Tulip Daffodil Rallye.

Each car club (3 car minimum) will have a **First Place** finish for the 27th 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) 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. 36th 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

REGISTRATION FOR THIS EVENT IS NOW CLOSED!

After an overwhelming response, the 2008 Sun Run is sold out!

If you sent in a registration form but have not received word on your status, please be patient. The OVMC were overwhelmed with processing registrations but should have already been in touch with you.

With such a large number of registrations arriving so quickly this year (and with the event limited to 180 people), it was decided that the best way to fairly break the huge number of ties was to go by the postmark of each registration. This eliminated mail delivery time from the equation and gave those who live far away or in rural areas an equal chance to attend this annual event. The method was not fool proof, of course, and indeed a few of the postmarks were unreadable, making the OVMC's job even tougher. However, they did their very best to be fair and can only hope their judgment was accurate.

To those that were unable to register this year, the Okanagan Valley Miata Club hope to see you at the 2009 Topless Sun Run.

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 10th 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 will be 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 can be found at Club Miata Northwest's website at www.clubmiata.com

An End and A Beginning

By Denise Williamson



Another chilly day, another autocross. 90 autocrossers, being the hardy bunch they are, competed on February 10 in the “ConeVergance Zone”, a WWSCC event. Three PSMC members made the trip to Bremerton. **Alan Dahl**, driving his Solstice GXP, placed seventh in PRO1 and met some cones along the way. The only PSMC member driving a Miata at this event, **TJ McGeary**, placed first in Stock C. **Dieter Beldi** placed first in Stock D in his Mazdaspeed3, although he gets brownie points for staying within the Mazda family.

Stay tuned for results from the next autocross, “Alan’s Crazy Experiment.” That’s right: Alan Dahl will be up to something! Results may be possible from the first WWSCC and SCCA championship events of the season as well. Yes, it’s almost that time! Come out and join in, why don’t ya? Check out www.wwscc.org for more information.



Alan Dahl at the Slush #2 Event. Photo by Jake Nygaard.

April Autocross

For details see wwscc.org

- 1 BSCC Monthly Meeting @ Round Table Pizza, Gig Harbor
- 5 NWR/SCCA Novice School @ Bremerton Raceway
- 6 NWR/SCCA Event #1 @ Bremerton Raceway
- 8 NWR/SCCA Solo Committee Meeting @ Goldie’s Airport Way
- 12 SSSCC Winter Heat #5 @ Dust Devil’s Baseball Stadium
- 12 WWSCC Slush Banquet @ Bison Creek Pizza
- 13 BSCC Event #2 @ Bremerton Raceway
- 13 Oregon Region SCCA Novice School #1 @PIR South Paddock
- 13 SSSCC Winter Heat #6 @ Dust Devil’s Baseball Stadium
- 19 NWR/SCCA Regional ProSolo #1 @ Packwood
- 20 NWR/SCCA Event #2 @ Packwood
- 21 WWSCC Council Meeting @ Goldie’s Airport Way
- 26-27 SCCA NorPac Division – NorPac CA Divisional @ Golden Gate Fields

Setup: Episodes #1-3

By Denise Williamson



Horse Thief Mile. Photo contributed by Denise Williamson.

Setup #1

At first, I wondered if the right show was on. The “scenery” was of a rough, industrial neighborhood. The participants lined up under a bridge and were sniffed by drug dogs. Then, many snippets from the interviews were shown, with most drivers saying essentially the same thing: “I think I’m the best driver here. I wouldn’t be here if I didn’t think so.”, “I’ll do whatever it takes to win”, etc. Here’s a gem: “I think some of the guys, they look like they’re bringing their A game”. Duh.

Off to Willow Springs Raceway, where the contestants drove Tony karts (whewee!) for two laps. Supposedly, the quickest drivers would qualify for the show, but of course we know that is not entirely accurate. After the laps were completed, the host (Tommy Kendall), and this year’s eye candy (Jaimie) interviewed people who were on the bubble, and told others they were going home. The interview questions were variations of “You’re on the bubble. Tell me why I shouldn’t send you home.”

Then it was back to the garage, where Tommy announced the top 12 drivers. One of them was a familiar face from last season, Kevin Dietz (last season’s mechanic from Team Bridgestone/Northwest Region), with Crew Chief Doug Chase in tow. 12 drivers for 12 cars, right? Not so fast.... 12 teams for 12 cars. The top 12 drivers had to “team” with another driver within minutes. Fortunately, Kevin was able to team up with autocross SCCA National Champion and fellow Evolution instructor Mike “Junior” Johnson. Junior is also a co-owner of Evolution Performance Driving School. The teams then had their pick of any one of the silver, 260 hp Pontiac Solstice GXPs in the garage. By the way, if you see a yellow GXP around the greater Puget Sound area, it may well be PSMC member Alan Dahl...

Setup continued on page 9

Setup continued from page 8

It was then time for the sponsors to interview the drivers. Junior and Kevin ended up with Bridgestone. Sound familiar? It should, as Bridgestone sponsored Team NW Region last year. After the sponsorships were decided, everyone's cars were teched and taken to the track.

Setup #2

At Willow Springs Raceway, everyone got to drive in their first race. It was for 15 laps on a roundy-round track, 12 cars per race. This year, everyone had to wear open-face helmets (provided by the show), which had nametags on the visor. This helped a lot for the in-car shots, and it was fun to see some of the interesting facial expressions people made while they were driving. In race #1, Kevin came in third; Stina went home. In race #2, Junior, who had never driven wheel-to-wheel, won. In a reference to comments made last year, he said, "How 'bout those autocrossers now, baby?!" Chris M., who spun twice, went home.

Back at the garage, everyone got new springs, which lowered the cars by 1". In the meantime, Kevin got into a tiff with a stoned-looking guy (Danan) and his father. Given the editing, it was difficult to tell what really happened. However, no physical contact was made, so no one went home. Also in this episode was a lot of face time for Junior and Kevin, and a focus on autocross.

Setup #3

Finally, it was time to race at Horse Thief Mile at Willow Springs Raceway. Although it is only one mile long, it is narrow and curvy, with interesting elevation changes, little passing room, and some scary runoff. The races were 25 laps each. The teams who were down to one driver now had to race twice: once in each race. Same deal as last time: if you finish last, you go home. During the races, the producer was going around saying things like "If I see you laying up, you're going home", and "Throw a yellow! They need to calm down" and "Bunch them up!" Looks like melodrama and "TV rules" are more important than regular race rules and driver safety.

In race #1 Kaitlin was the slowest. Since there was now an extra car, one of the teams was asked if they wanted it. The team hesitated, so then Team Bridgestone was asked if they wanted it. They agreed, so Junior will now be in the Sketchers car and will have to run in every race. Race #2 looked more like bumper cars at the county fair. Lots of people were hitting or getting hit, and/or going off track, as should have been expected from a track normally used for karts and motorcycles. Josh went off track and wrecked his car, so he got sent home. Thankfully, Josh and the track workers did not get hurt. After this accident, the race was called, even though all laps had not been completed. The winner of race #2 was Junior.

When race #2 was finished, the Geico Crew Chief said that if there had been a few more laps, his driver (Mike) could have won. The producer said something like, "Oh really? Let's see about that. Loser goes home." Mike and Junior had a match race of a few laps. Junior's autocross ProSolo experience came in handy, as he got a great launch. Junior won the race, but then the producer told everyone he was kidding about the "loser goes home" part. The producer seemed to think it was pretty funny,

Setup continued on page 10

Cindy's New Hobby

By Bonnie Lohkamp

Just wanted to give you all an update as to what our past CEO and current Sounder editor does in her non Miata life now that she has some free time from the PSMC.

On February 20th, I attended the Everett Historical Commission's meeting along with Tom and Cindy Smith. Cindy was the featured speaker that evening and was to give a presentation on the City of Everett's original cemetery. Greenwood Cemetery, as it was known in its day, has a very interesting history. This cemetery is now covered up and is a strip mall (if you know Everett, think Display Costumes, Harbor Freight Tools, Arthur Murray Dance Studio). For those of you that were on Cindy's 2002 Graveyard Tour, you may remember that we stopped at this current site. You may also remember that there was some concern as to what happened with many of the folks buried in Greenwood Cemetery, as records were not kept very well at all. While Cindy has discovered that 216 of Greenwood's "residents" were moved to the Evergreen Cemetery (the cemetery we visited next on the tour), there is still much speculation that some "residents" were left behind (and in some cases, some of the parts of some of the "residents" who did get to move were thought to have been left behind!)

However, the one thing that wasn't based on speculation was Cindy's presentation. All of her findings were based on facts that she had extensively researched and carefully documented. Old land records, the Greenwood Cemetery plat map, court documents, early newspapers and even the Everett City Commission notes from the late 1890s were part of her PowerPoint Presentation. Also included in the presentation were photos of what the cemetery looks like now and the approximate final resting place of those bodies that were removed to Evergreen (they are located near the Rucker's Tomb). The Historical Commission was very impressed with her research, and Cindy has now been contacted by some board members who have given her names and phone numbers of those who were associated with the old cemetery. She has also received a phone call from the Everett Herald, Everett's main newspaper. Debra Smith, one of the newspaper's feature writers, was quite excited about the prospect of doing a story about the cemetery and Cindy's research on it. She even had an interview set up with Cindy. However, the paper's editor thought it more "newsworthy" and handed the write-up to the Everett News writer, David Chircop. At this writing, Cindy is still waiting to hear from him. I will update you on more when that happens.

It is unbelievable how much time and energy Cindy has spent on this project – all while serving on PSMC's board, hosting numerous events and doing the editing and layout for its newsletter at the same time. This lady continues to amaze me more each day.



*Cindy locating the final resting place of the Greenwood Cemetery "residents" at Evergreen Cemetery.
Photo by Tom Smith.*

At Last! George Surfaces!



George of the Gorge

Respectfully submitted by The McGranaghans

Transfer of chain of custody of "Curious George of Gorge" between their last legal guardian – A.J. & Vickie McGranaghan and George's new guardians, Mike and Lillian Springer, during a recent "First Friday Formal" at C.I. Shenanigans in Tacoma on 7 March 2008.

The short of the story goes something like this. . .

During a past event poor ol' George of the Gorge was unceremoniously left in our Miata during an event sometime in October 2007. (I believe it was Tom and Cindy's Haunted House Tour of Tacoma). In fact, it's coming back to me, poor ol' George wound up in our Miata during a quick respite at Ft. Nisqually in Point Defiance....Anyway, nobody would take responsibility for dumping ol' George in our Miata....So by default, A.J. & Vickie were now the new caregivers of George.

One of the first things we noticed about George upon bringing him to his new home was his penchant to get into mischief....We quickly developed a fondness for ol' George, but he definitely was "high maintenance"....

He was constantly sitting in my family room easy chair, drinking my best Scotch, and smoking my cigars...He didn't even have the decency to ask my permission before using my personal property...It seems like our adult kids/charges take living with their parents/guardians for granted. I'm sure they wouldn't act that way if they were guests in somebody else's house.

It only gets better from here....

George being the wayward individual that he was, was constantly "pushing the envelope" within the McGranaghan household. George now is the proud guardian of a new son...It must have happened during a recent tryst. Ol' George has opted to name his new son, "Lit'l George of the Gorge"....

To the new guardians of "Curious George of the Gorge"....Good luck, you're going to need it....



New Faces

We hope to meet you at an event soon!

By Sean McGriff



Mark & Maggie Nicolino	Maple Valley, WA	99 Black
Carmen Rey & Chad Kellums	Renton, WA	99 Silver
Melissa Blake	Tacoma, WA	94 Red
Dan Jack	Bellevue, WA	95 Laguna Blue

Familiar Faces

Try a new Miata Event this year!

Grant & Vicki Levens	90 Red	5 yrs
Byard & Stephanie Bower	01 BRG	5 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!



Setup continued from page 9

but no one else did. The Geico Crew Chief said he will keep his mouth shut from now on.

Last but not least was the gathering back at the garage. There was a lot on finger-pointing, some of it in Kevin's direction. Then there were the driver interviews with the host, Tommy. Tommy came down on Kevin, and told him he needed to work on his awareness and to reread the rules. The race #2 loser, Kaitlin, had it easier. Tommy told her things like she was a "ray of sunshine", and that, although she couldn't drive in the competition any more, she and her father/crew chief could stick around as long as she wanted. Hmmm....

Coming in a future episode: a cartwheeling Solstice!

President's Message

By Bonnie Lohkamp
PSMC President



Hello again everyone. March is flying by and we will be in April already as you read this. As you can see, the calendar is starting to get very busy. This month we start off with the all important Nominating Meeting on April 5th, followed by the April Social on the 19th, and ending with the Corvettes de Olympia Rally on April 20th. CdeO really puts on a fun event which will take you on some roads you never knew existed.

In order to get ready for Detailing Day this year, we will be setting two weekends aside to help Coop prepare for what has become one of our biggest events. On April 19th and 20th, we will be needing clean up crews and on April 26th and 27th setup crews will need to report. Please be sure to call Coop to get put on a crew if you can help in either capacity (or both). Coop does request that you do not just show up; it helps keep things more organized if he knows you are coming. All this good volunteer work will help ensure that Coop gets his place ready in time for The Big Day, which will happen on Saturday, May 3rd.

Unfortunately, we have received some news that affects the club greatly. Everett Boeing will no longer be available for autocross events. (See article on Page 1.) Not only does this affect all of Western Washington's Autocross Clubs, but it will affect PSMC's "pocketbook" drastically. Miatacross has been our only fundraiser for many years, and with no venue in sight for Miatacross, there will be no fundraiser for the club. Miatacross has been responsible for PSMC being able to provide the general membership major discounts to Detailing Day, the yearly Gathering and the Holiday Party – not to mention provide the club with a top-notch newsletter. While there is a search going on for other autocross sites, the problem remains that most of the other venues are cost prohibitive. In order to keep the high quality standards that each and every one of you expect from PSMC, we will be needing to host other types of fundraising events in order to replace this revenue. This is WHERE YOU CAN HELP THE CLUB. If you have an idea for a fun fundraising event, then please contact me at blohkamp@comcast.net. Any ideas will be great appreciated and we are open to all suggestions.

On a happier note, the weather is starting to warm up and the rains seem to be abating. Larry even had the top down on his car a few days last week on the way home from work, so things are looking better. I have heard from John and Linda Mann in Arkansas quite often and today they called to tell us it was 73 degrees and they were going for a drive with the top down.

Well that is all for this month, got to go throw a few things in Larry's car as we are going to be doing the Dogging the Green Rabbit Tour put on by Coop and the Ohlsen's tomorrow. See ya next month.

"Live for sunny days and warm nights"



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	Sean McGriff
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 or send your name, address and check for \$30 (annual chapter dues) to:

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

2008 Calendar

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

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 7)
- 26-27 Detailing Day Setup

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 7)
- 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

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 (see pg 6)

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 7)
- 3 First Friday Formal, hosted by Lazur
- 4-5 Olypmic Peninsula Tour, hosted by Millar and McGranaghan
- 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

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