

# Miata Sounder



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

## Puget Sound Miata Club turns 20!

You may not realize it, but 2009 marks the 20-year anniversary of the establishment of the Puget Sound Miata Club. Our club has the distinction of being America's First Miata Club and has enjoyed a long history of Miata adoration. The club received its charter on December 10, 1989.

So, in honor of those Miata pioneers and all those who followed, the Sounder has reached w-a-a-y back into the archives of Sounders past. Over the coming months, you will be able to read about the beginnings of the club, past events, ups-and-downs, and other interesting tidbits gleaned from our own club archives. Unfortunately, our archives only go back to September 1992, but there were some "memory" pieces about the club's formation in those, so that's where the walk down "Memory Lane" will begin.

PSMC board members hope to have a 20-year anniversary celebration sometime this year, not just to celebrate our birthday, but also to give due recognition to the greatest sports car ever manufactured in the world. So regardless of whether you own a vintage 1989 stock model or a brand new MX5, enjoy the memories! For this month's reflections, turn to page 2.



### **PSMC Board Meeting and Lunch**

**January 10, 2009**

**11-2:30 p.m.**

**Mitzel's in South Everett**

**Get directions at  
[www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org)**



*These folks are among those who hosted PSMC drives or other events this year and earned free memberships as a result. They were honored at the Dec. 6 Holiday Party and included, from left, Sean and Pam McGriff, Mindy Bohnas, Lilly Springer, Tom and Cindy Millar, Lindanne Gores, Bill Bell, and Tom Smith. For more on the Holiday Party, turn to page 5.*

*(Photo by Mike Springer)*



## MIATA SOUNDER

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

## PUBLISHING

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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:

**Miata Sounder**  
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**pugetsoundmiataclub.org**

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

## memories

# Were you around when. . .

*(Editor's Note: Throughout 2009, the Sounder will publish tidbits of news from our archived newsletters. Look for this column in each issue of the Sounder in 2009).*

Bill and Glenda Allen published a story about the formation of the club in the December, 1992, *Sounder*. At that time, a few owners of new Miatas gathered at the Allens' home and held the first meeting of a newly formed sports car club. Bill had contacted the national organization and made arrangements to establish recognition of the club in June, 1989, after he and a few others had been reading about the new sports car being talked about in car magazines.

The club was very proud of the very first Gathering in 1990, when more than 30 cars showed up at Lange's Ranch on the Kitsap Peninsula. This article also noted that Bill had put a deposit on a not-yet-manufactured Miata in June, 1989, and along with Dick Sandaas, another charter member, arranged to purchase Miatas before they even came out!

### Other interesting tidbits from our early years follows.

In September 1990, the PSMC:

—Held the Great Northwest Gathering on the Kitsap Peninsula at Lange's Ranch, resulting in the largest turnout ever at a club event, and a photo in the Spring 1991 issue of *Miata Magazine*.

—Had a two-tiered membership structure: *general* and *participating*. If you wanted to actually go on drives, tours, rallies, dinner, races, shows, autocross event, or a tech session, your annual fee went from \$25 to \$30 (from a general membership to a participating membership) so you would be covered by the club's insurance. Apparently, the two-tiered structure saved significantly on insurance premiums. In case you're wondering, the general membership got you the newsletter and admittance to PSMC parties. (While dues remain steady at \$30 per year as of this printing, there is no longer a two-tiered membership structure).

In the 1992 Fall Issues:

—The PSMC hosted the Councours d'Elegance at the 1992 Great Northwest Gathering, billed as "a kind of beauty contest for autos; an opportunity to really clean your car; an opportunity to see how individuals accessorize a sports car; and, some day, in the far distant future, an opportunity to see a stock-original Miata, just like it looked when it first hit the streets." The Gathering was the largest Chapter event ever, with 72 Miatas and drivers in attendance. Of those, 40+ cars toured the Kitsap County backroads enroute to the ferry landing.

—As of September, 1992, two driving events and three party events remained in the last four months of 1992! One was a driving trip to Jasper, Alberta, through the Canadian Rockies. Seven Miatas from the Oregon and Washington areas also drove to Laguna Seca and Pebble Beach.

—The Third Anniversary Party was held at the Chateaux St. Michelle in the Sammamish River Valley. Held in the afternoon, cost was \$30 per person and included a fabulous luncheon for up to 80 people.

—A year-end report showed 126 general members and 36 participating members. In 1992, the club hosted five tours, three parties, two rallyes, two race days one car show, one concours, one autocross, and four business meetings. Additionally, 12 newsletters were published as well as the membership directory. Bill Allen was the Sounder editor in 1992.

# Autocross 2008 by the numbers

By Denise Williamson

2008 was a busy year of events and changes for autocrossers. PSMC counted 15 different drivers among its members this year, who drove to many different venues to race. After the loss of the Everett site, the two main sites used for Western Washington events were Bremerton and Packwood. An event was also held at Tacoma's Cheney Stadium. A new site used this year was in Shelton. Some ventured even further afield to Eastern Washington, Pitt Meadows (British Columbia), and Topeka, Kansas. 2009 venues are expected to be the same as in 2008, with the exception of the SCCA National Championships, which will be moving to Lincoln, Nebraska. From what I can tell, none of the PSMC drivers made the typical out-of-state treks to Pro Solos or National Tours, but I have the feeling that will change slightly for 2009.

Overall (excluding Nationals), the 30 Western Washington events had a total of 4,155 entrants (including double entries). 221 of these entrants were PSMC drivers. SCCA held 12 non-practice events this year, including two regional Pro Solos, the Packwood National Tour, and the Packwood Pro Solo. These events attracted 1,716 entrants, including 97 PSMC entrants in 14 different classes. The most popular event for PSMC drivers was the August 31 SCCA #7, with 14 PSMC entrants. Outside of the just-for-fun Time Only class, Open Pax had the most PSMC entrants for the year with 18, followed closely by Street Mod 2 and Non-Stock 4 (each with 13).

WWSCC held seven championship events this year, and three "slush" events. These 10 events attracted 986 entrants, including 76 PSMC entrants in eight different classes. The most popular event for PSMC drivers was, believe it or not, the March 9 Slush #3 (also known as "Alan's Crazy Experiment"), with 12 PSMC entrants. Outside of the just-for-fun Time Only class, Stock D had the most PSMC entrants for the

year with 10. Now, I could go and point the finger at one person in particular to blame for this, but I think you can figure out who it is....

BSCC held eight non-practice events this year. These events attracted 1,453 entrants, including 48 PSMC entrants in seven different classes. The most popular event for PSMC drivers was the October 12 BSCC #8, with 10 PSMC entrants. Outside of the just-for-fun Time Only class, Sports C had the most PSMC entrants for the year with 21.

What can we expect for 2009? It's hard to say. Pacific Raceways is planning a \$135 million redevelopment, including an "autocross area". Bremerton Motorsports Park, as we know it now, will at some point be unavailable due to airport construction. The current state of the economy will work for and against autocrossers. In other words, redevelopment will probably move slowly at PR and BMP, resulting in no new autocross area at PR and continued temporary use of BMP. If you have any ideas regarding possible autocross sites, contact Dieter Beldi, PSMC's representative to the Western Washington Sports Car Council ([autocross2@pugetsoundmiataclub.org](mailto:autocross2@pugetsoundmiataclub.org)). Do you have any questions about autocross? You can email Dieter or me at [autocross1@pugetsoundmiataclub.org](mailto:autocross1@pugetsoundmiataclub.org). 2008 was great, but 2009 promises to be even better. Will we see YOU out there? Come see what it's all about!



*Seen any cool hats lately? Pam and Sean McGriff pride themselves on the outrageous hats they can find to wear on the Turkey Teaser Drive, which they hosted the Sunday before Thanksgiving.*

*(Photo by Tom Millar)*

## January Autocross

(For more info, go to [www.wwsc.org](http://www.wwsc.org))

- 13 NWR/SCCA Solo Committee Meeting  
Goldie's Airport Way (SCCA)
- 17 WWSCC Coneheads Banquet (tent.)  
FX McRory's
- 19 WWSCC Council Meeting  
Goldie's Airport Way (WWSCC)

## “Two lanes to Oregon” added to calendar

### *Road trip to WVMC's "Explore Oregon 2009"*

Friday, July 17, 2009

Hosts: Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson

Phone: 253-845-2424

E-mail: [ToadHallIWA@yahoo.com](mailto:ToadHallIWA@yahoo.com)

"Road Dancer" ('99 silver Miata) and her humans will lead a Miata back roads tour on July 17 from the Puget Sound area to Sisters, Oregon, for Willamette Valley Miata Club's "Explore Oregon 2009" weekend meet.

We expect to start from Pierce County, Washington, in early morning and arrive in Sisters in time for the first night's activities. We'll try to have other join-up stops enroute, for far south enders. The plan is to take all secondary roads, using freeways only when absolutely necessary, and to tour at a leisurely pace, sightseeing as we go. Rest stops and a lunch stop will be included. More details as they are developed during the winter.

NOTE WELL: You MUST register for the "Explore Oregon" meet separately at <http://www.oregonmx5.com/> and we suggest you do it immediately as this meet is filling up fast. That club's web site will also tell you how to make hotel reservations; space is very limited in the small town of Sisters. Please use the RSVP feature on our PSMC web site to sign up for the road trip so we know who to expect.



*Karen Perry and Bill Cooper entertained at the 2008 Holiday party by singing a number of karaoke songs. They were joined by most everyone else at the party before the night of revelry was over. (Photo by Mike Springer)*



*Dinner was a big hit at the Holiday Party. Only about a dozen dinner rolls were left at the end of the carnage. The dinner was lovingly prepared by board members Tom and Cindy Millar and Charlotte Fellers. (Photo by Mike Springer)*

## Valentine's Day tour scheduled

**Hosts: Tom and Lindanne Gores**

**Contact: [lindanne@comcast.net](mailto:lindanne@comcast.net)**

**Phone: 253-851-5110**

What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than to do some wine and chocolate tasting! We will host a drive February 14 using a different route from past years for the Red Wine and Chocolate Drive, which is not finalized yet. What we do know is that we have found a number of wineries between Tacoma and Olympia, and a few in the central Sound. We are working on the pre-run and will have details of this drive ready to publish in the February edition of the Sounder and on the website at [www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org).

We are on the trail of the hidden wineries in this area. We have found a few that we're investigating and if you happen to know of others, let us know if you think they are worthy of a Miata Club visit. Here are a few we are looking at: Spyder Lake Winery, Edgewood; Andre Hill, Vashon; Baron Manfred von Vierthaler Winery and Steakhouse, Sumner; Corky Cellars, DesMoines; Wine Styles, Tacoma; Vino Aquino, Tacoma.

# President's Message

By Mindy Bohnas  
PSMC President



Well December is officially over and a new year is upon us. I wish you all the best during the year ahead. Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the Miata! Check out our own calendar sometime after January 15<sup>th</sup> for the latest PSMC updates on upcoming events. If you are lucky enough to have the time and money to travel in your Miata, you can bet that there will be some great events in nearby states this year. Miata.net has the best links to all the other club calendars.

This month we have the final Calendar Planning Meeting with a Board Meeting afterwards at Mitzel's in South Everett on January 13<sup>th</sup> from 11-2:30. I encourage all members in the area to attend so you can give your input or ideas about events you'd like to see in 2009. If you are even remotely interested in seeing what the board members do to keep the club running smoothly, check out the board meeting. We will be assigning a nominating committee to help find and recommend members for the elections in June. We will also be discussing the results of the survey that was published online and in last month's Sounder.

According to everyone I talked to at this year's Holiday Party, they all agreed that the venue, the entertainment, the prizes, and especially the food was absolutely fantastic!

Please check out the website for the long list of people who helped out, with better explanations of just how much each person helped make the party a success. Here's the "short list:"

Lindanne Gores was our bartender extraordinaire. She was also our "Mean, Green Recycling Queen" and donated some snacks to tide everyone over until dinner time. Bill Cooper, Karen Perry, and Joshua Sapien. Coop provided the very professional Karaoke system and projector so the audience could sing along if they wanted. Karen donated the tabletop "Trees with Bells" decorations, and her son-in-law Josh was our acting DJ for the evening.

Mike and Lilly Springer along with Pam and Sean McGriff helped at check-in and selling drink tickets and extra door prize tickets. The cooking team of Tom & Cindy Millar, headed by Charlotte Fellers, made some excellent food for our dining pleasure at the Millar's house that day.

Gayle Lazur very generously donated lots of red wine and our GRAND DOOR PRIZE award once again this year. The winners of a week at a TrendWest resort of their choosing were Frank Shriver & Carol Kus.

Bonnie Lohkamp came all the way from Arkansas and she donated a brand new book written about the 20 years of Miatas as an extra door prize. Chris Stollery helped with cleanup and with serving the food. Tom Millar was my great helper in drawing and announcing the Door Prize winners and Ice Breaker game winners.

In my book, this was a great party and the Ballinger Lake Golf Club was a great place to hold the party. Charlotte Fellers deserves major kudos for finding it! Near the freeway, easy to find and a nice cozy atmosphere. What more could you want?

Life's Short, Drive a Miata



## OFFICERS/DIRECTORS WEB COMMITTEE

### CHIEF OFFICERS

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

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

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

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

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

### WEB COMMITTEE

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

## MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

# 2009 Calendar

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

## January 2009

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

## February 2009

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

## March 2009

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

## April 2009

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

## May 2009

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

## June 2009

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

## July 2009

- 3-5 Historics Races, 8-5 daily, Pacific Raceways, Auburn  
4 Kingston Parade, noon, followed by lunch  
11 Hurricane Ridge (**needs a host!**)  
14 Third 'meet & greet', hosted by Bill Bell, place TBD  
17 Road trip to Sisters, OR (see p. 4) hosted by Dahlke & Johnson  
18 Wideby Island Tour, hosted by Frank Shriver & Carol Kuz

## July 2009 (con't)

- 19 Chinatown Parade, 5 p.m. (tentative) (**Needs a host**)  
25 Silverdale Whaling Days Parade, 10 a.m., lunch to follow

## August 2009

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

## September 2009

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

## October 2009

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

## November 2009

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

## December 2009

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

**Several events still need a co-host. To volunteer to help or to schedule your own drive, contact President Mindy Bohnas to get some help and ideas. 360-731-3897.**