

Miata Sounder



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

Turkey Teaser highlights November

When: November 22 at noon

Hosts: Sean & Pam McGriff

by Sean McGriff

It's that time of year again. The leaves are hitting the ground, and the turkeys are just about ripe. Let's meet at noon at Torero's. It's in front of Fred Meyer on Rainier Ave in downtown Renton. You can grab a quick appetizer or snack before we head out turkey hunting.

We'll be doing some urban and rural hunting, so be sure to wear appropriate fowl attire.

After the hunt, we'll sit down to a nice traditional style Mexican Thanksgiving dinner. (Except for that fact that Thanksgiving is not a Mexican tradition, the food is nonetheless delicious.)

Prizes will be awarded to those hardy souls that complete the hunt with the most tur-

keys in a reasonable amount of time. So please join us for a fun afternoon! You can register/RSVP on the PSMC website.

The meeting place:

Torero's Mexican Restaurant

431-B Rainier Ave. So.

Renton, WA 98055

(425) 228-6180

Across the street from McLendon's!

Hope to see you Sunday,

(Editor's Note: I have done this drive two or three times, and every time, I come in last place and win a prize! This is a great drive that, in the past, featured some beautiful scenery in the area of Maple Valley, driving backroads and around lakes in the area. So if you come on this drive, don't plan on taking the last place honors away from me and my partner!)

Board to meet to set 2010 drives

Hosts: PSMC Board

Where: Mitzel's in Fife

When: Nov. 7, lunch at 11 a.m., meeting at noon

It's time to get your calendars out and start thinking about what you'd like to see in the way of club activities for 2010.

It takes everyone in the club to keep it alive and fun, and all the members can have a part in the fun by hosting events throughout the year. You can host anything from a one- or two-hour drive on a Saturday morning or afternoon to a week-long trip to an exotic locale to tour wineries and other fun sites. If that seems a bit daunting, maybe you'd like to host an intimate party for the club at your home. If you don't feel like doing that, perhaps you would enjoy hosting a First Friday Formal at a local restaurant.

Any and all of these types of events have been on the calendar the past 20 years this

club has been in existence. So start thinking about how you can contribute to the club and help keep it going for another 20 years.

The calendar will be set at the Fall Board Meeting November 7. The board will meet at Mitzel's in Fife, which is convenient, right off I-5.

Among other topics, the board will be reviewing ideas for new fundraisers to help keep the club solvent. This year, the PSMC hosted an autocross event, but organizers are not sure if we'll be able to continue this fundraiser, so if you have some new ideas for fundraisers to help our club carry on it's many activities, please bring a proposal to the meeting and present it to the board.

A meeting room that houses up to 27 people has been reserved for the meeting. If you would like to eat lunch, a limited menu with 5-7 choices will be offered. If you would like to attend just the meeting, it will begin promptly at noon.

Directions to Mitzel's: From the North: Take I-5 North or South to Exit 137 for WA 99 North toward Fife/Milton. Turn right at 54th Ave E. onto Hwy 99. Mitzel's will be on your right.

Upcoming Events

November 7

Fall Planning Meeting, Board members and guests, Mitzel's in Fife. Help us build the 2010 Calendar of events! Lunch at 11 a.m., meeting starts at noon.

November 22

Join our club treasurer, Sean, and his wife Pam McGriff on the Turkey Teaser, a half-day of fun hunting turkeys! See the details at right.

December 27

Post-Holiday Party, hosted by Tom and Lindanne Gores, check next month for the time.



Save the date!

January 23, 2010

20th Anniversary Party at Ballinger Lake Country Club.

Corn Maze II delights many Miata-ites

By Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson

(‘99 silver “Road Dancer”)

Okay, we admit it, we got to test-run this road course in advance as the host (Charlotte) invited us to sanity-check her route before she published it. The sports car roads were so good, we tested it twice! Well, once to check it, and then again to double-check mileage and make sure our own edits made sense. Fact is, she laid out 37.4 delightful miles of rural two-lane blacktop, no mean feat in mostly urbanized southeast King County and adjacent Pierce County. We weren't going to miss the actual run for anything.

Corn Maze Day was cloudy and a bit chilly, but not enough so that one would put their top up. That is why we have L.L. Bean parkas, plus there were slivers of blue sky peeking through. Start was at The Old Cannery in Sumner, a convenient location which has the extra attraction of the Beyond The Bridge coffee shoppe just next door, offering a great place for a stiff peppermint mocha in an atmosphere of a 1950s beatnik dive complete with funky musicians, funky artists, and funky poets, all right out of Gregory Corso and Jackson Pollock. Let's see, besides your reporters the club turnout had Charlotte in the lead (Vera joined at the finish,) Bob & Marti, Sean and Pam in their Smart, A.J. & Vickie, President Tom & Cindy, John & Rose, and Robb & Sally, with Mindy & Rory and their Mini joining us later at the actual maze. In addition to the new faces (Welcome! Welcome!) note the presence of two OTM's (Other Than Miatas.)

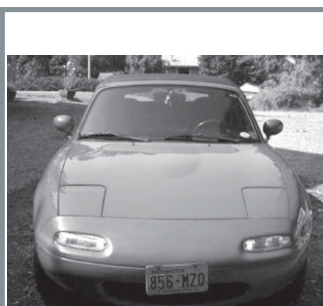
Our little pack buzzed through historic downtown Sumner (looks worth returning for some future frolic) then up the hill and around the south end of Lake Tapps, across Connell's Prairie and just nicked the center of Buckley, which prides itself on being "below the snow, above the fog." Opposite Mud Mountain Road (a fun byway that was the boyhood training ground for NASCAR star Kasey Kahne) we veered northwest through the farm fields to navigate around the Greater Enumclaw Metropolitan Complex, eventually arriving at Thomasson Farms, whose location could best be described as up a hill somewhere southwest of Flaming Geyser State Park. Charlotte thought their maze looked kind of elementary, so a couple of hard core teams decamped for another farm a few miles ahead. We novices suited up in our mud boots and decided to give Thomasson a try. Elementary my foot! We wandered into the corn and discovered the theme of

the maze was The Wizard Of Oz, which this reporter has seen exactly once, as a school play way back when the our grandson's mother was small enough to be a Munchkin. We had to find about 20 checkpoints by solving trivia questions related to the Oz book and movie. You'd come to an intersection of paths in the corn and have to answer a question, like this:

What was Dorothy's dog's name? 1. Toto (turn right.) 2. Rin-Tin-Tin (turn left.) 3. Lassie (go straight.) 4. Snoopy (back up.)

If you picked the right answer you'd take a route that got you to the next numbered checkpoint, and on and on until you completed the maze. Fair enough, but then there were much tougher questions on Charlotte's trivia quiz about how much the Munchkins were paid, or how many Oscars the film was nominated for. Slow-thinking Miata enthusiasts need not apply. We got through in 29 minutes without any need to run screaming through the corn rows for the exit, and us kids were then free to prowl the rest of the farm. There were vintage bulldozers and tractors to be climbed upon and levers tweaked, animals to be petted, cow flops to be autocrossed around, crafts and produce to be purchased, and a "corn box" to be played in if you were small enough.

Out of the farm we were soon motoring up the winding and scenic Green Valley Road past gentlemen farmers' "look-at-me" giant stone chateaux (Gentleman Farmers means they couldn't grow crabgrass without professional help) although weekend traffic and strict enforcement kept any potential motor antics in check and we limited ourselves to graceful sports motoring around the many curves. This riverside road course eventually led us into Auburn and down a side street to the finish line, where everyone rallied for a semi-pot-luck dinner at Charlotte's house. There were beef stew and chicken-chili main courses augmented by breads and salads and appetizers and beverages and more beverages and of course desserts, oh my. The neighbors working on their F-350 Super Duty truck next door thought our roadsters were amusing. We did not win the trivia contest. We have asked our editor not to play up this fact, but as you can see, she did anyway! (Photos next month)



For Sale: 1990 Red Miata, good condition. Has a dent in the right front panel. Stored under cover most of the time. New shocks last year; new soft top and tires. \$3000. Contact Nathan at 1-877-753-9123 or on the web at www.swan

towninn.com.

Garage Queen for Sale:

2001 BRG MX-5 LS, 78K, tan top & interior, 6-sp. Manual; ABS. This car has been meticulously maintained and the records have



been notebooked. Synthetic oil has been changed every 3K. Owner used authorized dealers for all of the service and repairs. This car is available at Coop's Miata for \$9500 today. Call Coop at 425-432-9666 or 206-914-0399 to arrange for a test drive.

aftermath

Peninsula tour another one for the books

by Tom Millar

While crossing the Puget Sound on the Edmond's ferry, the crisp air of early October followed us on our journey to Winslow. The weather forecast earlier in the week did not portray an optimistic weekend in regards to the wet stuff. Following ferry docking and disembarking, our small "Edmond's" group made the short trip up to Sequim, experiencing only a couple of "spits" from the sky.

After lunch at the Seven Cedars Casino our enlarged merry band of 26 Miatalites, loaded into 13 Miatas and began our official tour of the Olympic Peninsula. As we navigated through Port Angeles, stopping frequently to let the group catch up, the weather gods continued to bless us with a spectacular top-down experience. About half way through the "twisties" around Lake Crescent, the Miatalites decided to pull over to the side of the road and take in the beauty of this spectacular lake.

At this point, we had an unusual encounter with a pair of Taiwanese photojournalists, who were fascinated by the sight of our cars. Our group rearranged the cars for a photo opportunity and we made some unexpected friends in the process. The next stop was Forks, new home to the Stephanie Meyer vampire book series, and a much needed rest stop. The Olympic Peninsula is truly wonderful this time of year, with the colors beginning to show their full glory. The scenery changed from lake to forest, forest to rain forest, and forest to sea as we approached Kalalock. Moclips Highway was our last leg of the trip before arriving at the Pacific Beach Resort. Pacific Beach Resort, and the U.S. Navy, did a great job of checking in the large group of us in record time.

Following dinner at the Pacific Beach restaurant, the restless and brave gathered at the Sea Crest Party room for a continued evening of fellowship and good fun. Celebration

was in order as Karen Perry and Tom Millar were recognized for achieving their 39th birthdays, once again. Birthday cake was served, wine was poured and a grand time was had by all. Even "Karnack", from Tonight Show fame, made an appearance to help with the award presentations won by those who answered correctly to the "Old TV Show Road Quiz", as well as guessing numbers that the great "Karnack" thought up on the spot. If you didn't know better, you'd swear that "The Great Karnack" was actually reincarnated in the person of Tom Millar our talented and clever host! Prizes for the correct answers included some goofy stuff, but also included four of Cindy Millar's custom tee shirt creations.

Sunday morning brought us, "*Blue skies shining on me, nothing but blue skies do I see*", as we began the second day of our wonderful tour. Following breakfast and a brief driver's meeting, the tour continued along some breathtaking back roads on our way to Aberdeen. After a fuel stop in Aberdeen the next stop was the West Port Winery to take in their annual "Crush" event. The very delightful owners provided a gracious welcome to the PSMC, even waiving the entry and taste fees for our group. Unlike last year, none of our group elected to do the "Lucy Show" act of stomping the grapes. However, all enjoyed good wines as well as the tempting soup and snacks that were provided by our most gracious hosts.

On our way back to Highway 101 we enjoyed some delightful "Miata roads" as well as continued fall-inspired scenery. We stopped at Schafer State Park and chewed the fat for awhile before heading out to the four winds and our individual homes.

We departed company with superb experiences to add to our memory banks, the kind that cause us to pause and say, "Do you remember when...", and to see what is in store for the next year of the PSMC.



The group on the Olympic Peninsula Tour paused for a photo at Westport Winery on Oct 4.

(Photo by Patrick McSherry)

aftermath

The Olympic Peninsula Tour offered a long drive of about 450 miles in two days, and lots of laughs as a dozen Miatas and their drivers and passengers convened for a group photo to appease a pair of Taiwanese photojournalists (below). Some say that getting 12 Miatas in a straight line for photo is a bit like herding cats...and that's probably true. Left, one of our hosts, Tom Millar, resurrected Karnack, made famous by Johnny Carson, during the Saturday night social time. Lower left, some of the folks on the tour saddled up to the bar for a cocktail. Pictured from left, Bev Rudd, Fred Rudd, Carol Kuz and Sophie McSherry. Below, right, Vickie and AJ McGranahan went on the tour to celebrate AJ's safe return from his tour in Afghanistan.



Photos by Patrick McSherry



Sun shines on Miatacross

by Denise Williamson

September and early October were very busy for autocrossers. Besides SCCA Nationals, there were two events in Bremerton and two events in Shelton.

Tom Wins Sports C

Bremerton's seventh event of the year was held on September 7 with 112 entrants. *Tom Slipp* won Sports C in his '91 Miata with a time of 63.336. In Medium Sedan, *Dieter Beldi* placed second in his '07 Mazdaspeed 3 with a time of 52.850. Kudos for this event go to Dieter, who had the ninth top unindexed time of the day.

Glen Debuts New Car

WWSCC's Sports Car Spectacular was held on sunny September 26 in Shelton with 83 entrants. *Bob Bundy* won Open Street in his '90 Miata with a time of 50.093. It was great to see the car out again!

Dieter Beldi won Stock D in an '09 Chevy Cobalt with a 49.252. Having fun in Time Only were *Glen Hernandez* in his "new" '95R Miata (51.340 and 50.140), *Dieter Beldi* in the Cobalt (48.991), and Tom Slipp in his '91 Miata (53.803).

If you're wondering why Glen got to run twice in one day, it's because he ran Time Only AM and PM (no competitive classes for him this time). Dieter got to run twice (in a competitive class and Time Only PM) only because his competitive class was in the morning session. What's a "competitive class"? It's any class where you are competing against others for points or a prize.

Dieter Wins SD and Much Appreciation

The sun held out for Miatacross, which was held September 27 in Shelton. There were 88 entrants, including some trying autocross for the first time: *Steven Whitney*, *Carl Bergar*, PSMC Director at Large *Tommy Gores, Sr.*, *Thomas Gores, Jr.*, and PSMC President *Tom Millar*.

Coming back from previous years were PSMC Financial Officer *Sean McGriff*, PSMC Executive Officer *Mindy Bohnas*, and PSMC Director at Large *Brian Louderback*. In Open Street, *Bob Bundy* placed second in his '90 Miata with a 47.924, and *Rickey Carlson* placed fourth in his '90 Miata with a 53.499. *Alan Dahl* placed second in PRO1 in his '07 Pontiac Solstice GXP with an AS-indexed time of 40.014.

Dieter Beldi won Stock D in an '09 Cobalt with a 49.120. NEW PSMC MEMBER *Nathan Provo* won Super Stock in an '03 Corvette with a 47.028. Does Nathan have something in his garage that we don't know about?? In ST2, *Glen Hernandez* placed fourth in his not-yet-prepared '95 Miata R with a CSP-indexed time of 44.521. Having fun in Time Only were *Tom Slipp* in his '91 Miata (54.153), *Bob Bundy* in his

'90 Miata (47.085), and *Glen Hernandez* in his '95 Miata R (51.278).

Kudos for top unindexed times at this event go to *Nathan Provo* (4th), *Bob Bundy* (5th), and *Alan Dahl* (8th). Kudos for the event go to:

- **Tom Gores Sr. and Jr.**, for covering waivers on Saturday (yay!!). **Charlotte Fellers** for covering waivers on Sunday.
- **Zane Kenney**, for setting up the course in the dark, being Chief of Timing, auditing AND working in the timing van (and he's not even a PSMC member).
- **Glen Hernandez**, for being Chief of Grid, giving Novice walks, doing ride-alongs, and giving people rides.
- ALL the **Miatacross Chiefs**.
- **Mindy Bohnas** for making cool trophies and being Chief of Registration (again!).
- **Dieter Beldi** for many, many things, including driving the equipment van to and from Shelton (that's why you didn't see his car), setting up the course in the dark, opening the site at o-dark-thirty in the morning, doing driver's meetings and trophy presentations, and much more.

Bob and Rickey are 1-2

SCCA's eighth event of the year was held on October 4 in Bremerton. Out of 122 entrants, nine were PSMC members. *Nathan Provo* won Stock 1 in an '03 Corvette with an SS-indexed time of 40.984. In Stock 2, *Rich Blake* placed third in his '94 Miata R with an ES-indexed time of 40.195. *Dieter Beldi* won Stock 3 in an '09 Cobalt with a DS-indexed time of 39.573. In Non-Stock 1, *Tim Irwin* placed second in an '01 Porsche Boxster S with a BSP-indexed time of 42.249. Street Mod 2 got the PSMC 1-2 Punch. *Bob Bundy* placed

continued on page 8

WWSCC Schedule

Go to www.wwscc.org for more information

10	NWR/SCCA Solo Committee Mtg.	Goldie's, Airport Way
16	WWSCC Annual Rules Mtg.	Goldie's, Airport Way
16	WWSCC Council Mtg.	Goldie's, Airport Way

President's Message



By Tom Millar
PSMC President

San Diego is really nice this time of year. The evenings are still tolerable with shirt sleeves, and the days still warm enough for a spot of air conditioning while driving. This is where I find myself now as I write

the President's Message that Charlotte has been so dutiful to remind me of. Yes, once again I am on a business trip to Southern California, having spent last week in Chicago. Fortunately, I was able to snag three of the four air legs in first class!

This has been a Miata-filled month for Cindy and me. Beginning with the first weekend, we hosted the Olympic Peninsula ride which from all accounts was a hit, replete with a special visit from "Karnac" (you had to be there). Before this trip, on the last weekend of September, Cindy and I took in our first Autocross down in Shelton. This was a great experience for me as I entered the event with my 2001 SE BRG, and I'm quite certain I came in dead last. Last weekend we took part in Charlotte's Corn Maze ride which was wonderful. The day was beautiful, the scenery pristine, the roads delightful, and, best of all, no one got lost! The lovely get together at Charlotte's afterward was both nourishing and fellowship-filled as we tossed tales with our fellow Miatalites. Cindy and I reflected that we have been involved in a PSMC activity for the past four weekends! Truthfully, we are kind of looking forward to a bit of a respite; to get things done around the house...you know the routine. Still to come this month is the Bremerton Tick-or-Treat experience, hosted by Mindy, as well as Mike & Lilly's Halloween Party. Don't miss out now!

One of the things that happened at Mike and Lilly's 60's Beach Party in Long Beach, WA, was that the committee for the 20th Anniversary Party met in our room at the Breakers Hotel to discuss the particulars. Since we combined this meeting with our cocktail hour, I have to tell you this was probably the best PSMC meeting I have been to! I also have to tell you folks, this is destined to be a great event. We are planning to build in some special features that will elevate this party to a new level of excitement in our club's history. There will be more to follow as we near our January 23rd party date. There is a whole host of activities being planned for this "stepped-up" event and you need to make sure you put this on your calendars. Who knows, "Karnac" might even make an appearance!

During the month of November there is an important event coming up that I need your help with. This is our November Planning Meeting which will be held at Mitzel's Restaurant in Fife, on November 7th, beginning with an early lunch at 11:00 a.m. This key meeting is pivotal in our 2010 event planning. Please come with your ideas for our rides and events next year. Be prepared to host a ride or event, and don't worry, we're here to help you. This

continued on page 8



OFFICERS/DIRECTORS WEB COMMITTEE

CHIEF OFFICERS

Operating _____ Tom Millar
Executive _____ Mindy Bohnas
Communications _____ Gayle Lazur
Financial _____ Sean McGriff

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Ling Louderback Tommy Gores Pam McGriff
Chris Stollery Charlotte Fellers Sean McGriff
Mike Springer Brian Louderback
Cindy Millar Gayle Lazur

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Insurance Coordinator _____ Open Position
Data Coordinator _____ Open Position
Parade Coordinator _____ Dan White
Sunder 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

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

Miatacross a big success

continued from page 6

first in his '90 Miata with a 47.882, and *Rickey Carlson* placed second in his '90 Miata with a 52.404. In OPAX, *Glen Hernandez* placed second in his '88 Porsche 924S (soon to be for sale) with an ES-indexed time of 40.222. Having fun in Time Only were *Tom Slipp* in his '91 Miata (52.234), and *Bob Bundy* in his '90 Miata (47.371). Kudos for this event go to *Dieter Beldi* (9th top indexed time of the day) and *Bob Bundy* (9th top unindexed time of the day). (Check out Miatacross photos in the December *Sounder*)

Commentary

For many years now a couple of us have been telling some PSMC board members that another fundraiser (instead of Miatacross) needs to be found. Why? Because, out of approximately 200 members, only about a dozen volunteered to help. That's pathetic. It shouldn't be the few that make the money for the many. Every year, we beg for help. Every year, about a dozen people step up (usually the same ones every year), many of whom do more than one job due to lack of volunteers.

For example, no one volunteered to do course setup. The result? Dieter and a non-PSMC member set it up in the dark, for hours, with flashlights. No one volunteered to do course tear-down, either. In addition, due to the loss of the Everett site, the site rental fees are higher. For that reason alone, an autocross may no longer be financially worth it.

What can you do? You can think of ideas for fundraisers. There's a Board Meeting coming up on November 7th. Either bring your idea with you, or let one of the PSMC officers know about it. Be creative! It's time for some new ideas.

**"Unless someone like you
cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better.
It's not."**

--Dr. Seuss--

Needed immediately! Make new and fun friends! Learn more about the inner workings of the PSMC! Volunteer positions are open for PSMC members: Data Coordinator, Insurance Coordinator, director-at-large, Sounder editor. To volunteer for one of these jobs, contact President Tom Millar at 206-390-3469.

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

- 27 Post Holiday Open House, Tom/Lindanne Gores, Gig Harbor, details TBA.

January 2010

- 23 **PSMC 20th Anniversary Celebration, place Ballinger Lake Country Club**

President's Message

continued from page 7

is your chance to make a difference in helping us develop our 2010 calendar of events. If you an idea for a great ride or event, and I know you do, then let's hear it!

Well folks, as the hour is late, and I must rest so that I may go once again and slay dragons in the business world. In the meantime....

Drop your tops and hit the black tops!

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

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

Doug's Lynnwood Mazda (425) 774-3551

Mazda of Everett (425) 353-3403

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

University Mazda of Seattle (206) 634-1191

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

Miata Top Bob's, (206) 782-8081

