

Miata Sounder



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

Have you tried a parade?

by Charlotte Fellers
Sounder Editor

With the summer driving season comes the chance to use our cars to for maximum pleasure of not only ourselves, but many others--driving in parades!

The PSMC is invited to about a dozen parades each spring and summer, and this gives us an opportunity to showcase our awesome cars but also to build some goodwill toward the club. Additionally, it heightens our visibility as a club.

For instance, an annual event that many look forward to in late May is the Shelton Forest Festival Parade. This unique experience features breakfast at a meticulously preserved historical home in Shelton (it's not just a continental breakfast--it's the real deal!) and it's free! Then parade participants have plenty of time to find their lineup spot and decorate and shine the cars before driving in the actual parade. Often, we are asked to drive local dignitaries or area "royalty" from the Miss America Scholarship Pageant in our cars. If you didn't attend this year's Shelton parade on May 30, then you missed out on a great "after-party" which included visiting a winery in the Shelton area and then a social at the home of Tommy and Lindanne Gores in Gig Harbor (not a long drive from Shelton).

But wait! There's still time to get in on the fun! The annual Chinatown Parade, part of the annual Seafair celebration, offers a terrific opportunity to drive in a well-attended parade, and a chance to meet some important people in the Seattle area. The social time afterward usually ends up at a local eatery in Pioneer Square. Sometimes this parade is telecast on local television stations too.

Check the calendar on page 12 for parade opportunities or email at miata@sillyoldbear.com.



The eyeball lights are especially popular for spectators on parade routes. (Sequim, 2008 parade photo by Mindy Bohnas)

Upcoming Events

June 6

Board Elections hosted by Charlotte Fellers at her home in Auburn (RSVP on the website or see p. 5 for details).

June 13

Second Sloppy Saturday, hosted by McGriffs, see website for details on this fun early season drive!

June 23

Eat 'n Greet, hosted by Bill Bell at Jimmy Mac's in Renton, 6 p.m. Address is 225 SW 7th St, next to WalMart.

June 27

Fathoms of Fun Parade, Port Orchard, 4 p.m. meetup time with lots of appreciative parade-goers. RSVP on the website.

July 3-5

Historics Races at Pacific Raceways in Auburn. See page 3 for details.

July 4

Kingston Parade, meet at 10:30 a.m. starts at noon.

Miatacross postponed to Sept.

Host: Deiter Beldi

Deiter.W.Beldi@boeing.com

Miatacross, originally scheduled for June 28, has been postponed until September 27. All of this sudden change in dates was created by a number of different events that seemed to cause a domino effect for event planners, according to Deiter Beldi.

Apparently, the usage schedule for the venue, Sanderson Field, has changed. This

caused the Corvette Club to "bump" a June 7 event, which in turn changed to June 27, which, of course, bumped the Miatacross. Thus, the Miatacross event had to be rescheduled.

Deiter says to relax! The event is still on for September and it will still be a sanctioned WWSCC event. And, it will still help the PSMC raise funds for our projects throughout the year. So, check out the WWSCC's calendar on page 7, and go to www.wwscc.org for the latest changes to the calendar.

Stay tuned for details later!



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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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: We're celebrating our first 20 years! Read on for interesting memories from the past!)

From 1998:

--The Miata was named by *Car & Driver Magazine* as one of the "Ten Best Cars for 1998." Surprised? Hardly!

--The Third Cheap 'n Cheezy Run featured a "Miata Gras" theme, complete with clever costumes and a blow-up doll.

--Muriel Mickel took over the CEO duties for the club while Chuck Price was selected President/COO.

--A directory of members was published, underwritten by Chaplin Motors of Bellevue (thanks to Sean McGriff, our current Treasurer).

--The Island Escapade Drive initiated at the Swinish Casino with 26 cars taking part in this event. The tour featured a drive through Whidbey Island and Fidalgo.

--The Winthrop Great Western Bar-B-Que Run happened in June and featured a 3-day drive leaving on Saturday morning and included a catered Western Barbecue with chicken, salmon, or ribs. This run sold out all blocked rooms in two hotels!

--The Great Northwest Gathering was held at the KZ Corral, owned by member Kazi Langbehn, with a "western" theme. More than 200 cars were in attendance (largest ever!) and, not surprisingly, was managed by Bill "Coop" Cooper, who hosts this event nowadays.

--The first-ever Turkey Teaser Rallye, hosted by the McGriffs, took place the Sunday before Thanksgiving with 12 Miatas making this run through the Cedar River Valley. Best time went to John and Val Volkenburg of Kirkland.

From 1999:

--The PSMC had \$5500 in its bank account in January, 1999! The 1998 Gathering contributed \$1000 in profit to the club.

--A Pre-Valentine's Day Dessert Party drew 15 people, with desserts who entered Miata-themed desserts in a contest that was eventually won by Rob Caplan and Jennifer Teed (Best Use of a Miata).

--A Hound 'n Hare Run featured 20+ cars on a chase from the Coopers' home in Maple Valley. The "Lucky Dog" was Duane Ruud.

--Chuck Price became the new CEO while Karen Read became the new COO for the year. And, the *Sounder* featured color printing!

--A spirited Kitsap Peninsula Ride was a well-attended event in April, hosted by Martha Lance. 25 cars participated.

--Ray and Elsie Houghton hosted one of many (past and future) wine tasting drives, this time featuring 14 cars, to Oregon's Pinot Noir valley near McMinnville.

--The 10th Anniversary of the PSMC featured a dinner at the Holiday Inn Select in Renton, and featured events from 4-10 p.m. with a buffet dinner, games, slide show, door prizes, and dancing to live mu-

Historics Races July 4 weekend

Host: Mike Springer

Contact: 253-468-5291

(weekends & evenings)

This year, the Society of Vintage Racing Enthusiasts (SOVREN) celebrates it's 22nd Anniversary with racing July 3-5. Vintage cars race in eight classes ranging from small bore formula V's to an exhibition class which has included cars like the 1971 Tyrell 004, winner of the world championship that year. Also on hand will be rare beauties like a Ferrari 512M. The featured car will be the Chevrolet, celebrating it's 100th Anniversary. The Historics Race is considered the premier vintage car race in the Northwest. This year's race proceeds will benefit Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center.

Anyone wanting to attend this year's event, which is July 3-5 at Auburn Raceway Park, should purchase tickets in advance, if possible. Ticket prices are \$25 per day or \$40 for a three-day pass for a car and driver with a Car Corral pass. Passenger tickets are also \$25 per day or \$40 for a three-day pass. For

single day tickets, please specify which day.

There will be limited space in the Car Corral (premier parking), so ticket orders with checks must be received by June 1st

To order tickets send a check for the total amount to Mike Springer 2214 South Melrose Street, Tacoma 98405 and include a self-addressed envelope with return postage and a contact phone number. Make your check payable to Mike Springer, since he needs to send the organizers a single check for the total.



The Car Corral pass allows for reserved parking close to the pit entrance and parade laps of the track on Saturday and Sunday. Look for more information on the PSMC website.

Whidbey Island Tour slated for July 18

When: July 18, 2009, 11 a.m.

Hosts: Frank Shriver & Carol Kus and Tom & Cindy Millar

Contact: Millars, 206-390-3469

OR Shriver/Kuz, 360-678-1273

Explore the grandeur of Whidbey Island as you join Frank Shriver, Carol Kus and Tom & Cindy Millar on Saturday, July 18th, for this great island ride! Our journey will begin at the Park & Ride located in Clinton, as most people will be arriving on the Mukilteo-Clinton ferry. It is suggested that you fuel your Miata prior to boarding the ferry because gas prices on Whidbey are running \$.20 to \$.30/ gallon higher than on the mainland. The ferry's run every ½ hour and the crossing is about 15 minutes. Please plan on arriving in Mukilteo a few minutes after 10:00 AM to catch the 10:30 boat. We will have a driver's meeting at 11:00 and will leave the Park and Ride at 11:15.

Whidbey Island is 62 miles long and just over 1.5 miles wide at Greenbank in Central Whidbey.

We will be traveling on roads lesser driven on our trek to North Whidbey. You will have the opportunity to see the impressive beauty of the north end of Puget Sound, Admiralty Inlet, Saratoga Passage, Useless Bay, Holmes Harbor, Penn

Cove (Home of the Penn Cove mussel farm) as well as narrow tree lined roads.

Enjoying sights of wild life will also be a part of the drive. There are in excess of 70 nesting pair of Bald Eagles living on Whidbey and our chances are good to see this magnificent bird in its natural habitat. Spotting deer grazing should be common throughout the day. Hawks are very common and are often seen all over the island. The island is also home to coyotes.

Although the drive is still under construction, the tentative plans are to stop at Fort Casey State Park to observe the WWI and WWII gun emplacements which protected Washington from enemy ships and submarines. Our travels will also take us past/through Clinton, Langley, Freeland,

Greenbank and past Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in Oak Harbor. Near the end of our journey we will enjoy the spectacular Deception Pass, which if you haven't seen it before is very dramatic and inspiring.

Upon the completion of the tour we will meet at Frank and Carol's home, located 2 miles North of Greenbank, to enjoy burgers and hot dogs as well as to enjoy the sunset and view of Admiralty Inlet.

As mentioned earlier, this wonderful ride is still under construction and there will be more specifics to follow as the date draws near.

upcoming events

Two Lanes in Oregon in two days

When: July 16 & 17

Why: Hook up with the Explore Oregon Tour

Hosts: Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson

Contact: 253-845-2424 OR

by Dee Dahlke toadhalla@yahoo.com

For those who are already registered with the Willamette Valley Miata Club to attend **Explore Oregon** (<http://oregonmx5.com/>) we are planning a leisurely drive to that event *totally avoiding freeways* and seeing points of interest as we go. This is not a speed run. Here's the plan:

Thursday – July 16

Leave our house (Puyallup, Wash.) in early morning and take the elusive two-laners south to Longview and cross the Columbia River there. Then we'll head east on US 30 toward Portland, with a quick hill climb up Cornelius Pass Rd. Lunch

will be at the Cornelius Pass Roadhouse. Thence, we'll wind our way to Hillsboro, and twist through the hills to Newberg. Following that, we'll cut west and explore the funky town of Carlton, ending the day's run at McMinnville. Dinner will be at the Golden Valley Brewpub or other interesting venue. Choose a hotel in McMinnville for your overnight stay (your choice of hotel).

Possible meet-up points to join this run would be Puyallup, Yelm, Centralia, or further south. What's convenient for you? Let us know and we'll work with you!

Friday, July 17

Leave McMinnville after breakfast and cruise east to Newberg, then follow routes 219 and 214 east and south to Woodburn, Mount Angel (home of the Oktoberfest) and Silverton (lunch stop at whatever looks interesting). Continue past the Oregon Garden (stop?) and Silver Falls State Park (photo op?) then pick up Route 22 through the mountains to Sisters and the Miata meet.

If you are NOT attending Explore Oregon (it was full when you wanted to sign up), you're welcome to join us for these two days and head elsewhere on your own.

Did you miss Miatas in Moab III? No. 4 is coming in '10!

When: May 14-16, 2010

Where: Moab, Utah

Contact: Mike Bailey, Utah Miata Club

801-597-1456

When the Utah Miata Club hosted Miatas in Moab III, those who attended claimed it was a great event! A few of our members attended and reported that they had a great time. Miatas in Moab III had at least 300 cars and drivers in attendance, according to their website at www.utahmiataclub.com. Word was received recently from an astute PR person in the Utah Miata Club that the 2010 event is proving to be another premier event. In fact, the Best Western Canyonlands Resort, host to the 2010 event, sold out in early May, 2009!

Several other hotels are hosting visitors to the Moab area for this event. You can check them out at www.discovermoab.com or check out the website of the www.redcliffslodge.com to see if they have rooms left. There's a free Moab guide that you can order through the Discover Moab website; plus, many brochures and activities are linked at this website for downloads.

The sweet part of this event is that it's FREE to attend. Great price, huh? All you need to do is notify them that you are coming.

Here's the info from the website about the event:

"Unplugged" means that this will be a relaxed event. Anyone is free to plan their own ride or activity. We encourage individuals or clubs to bring their own "goodie bags" to distribute and trade with others. We also encourage each or any club to make or design their own T-Shirt or pin or any other item to be used to either sell or trade with other clubs or people at the event.

More information will be made available to everyone who signs up as we get closer to the event. Our last Miatas in Moab III was attended by almost 300 cars. We look forward to having you come to Utah and enjoy the scenic wonders and red rocks of Utah's canyons and National and State Parks.

We will have commemorative T-Shirts, Sweat-Shirts, Hats and Light weight Jackets, and patches for Sale with the Miatas In Moab IV logo on them. You can place an order now by emailing Mike Bailey or call Mike at (801) 597-1456 and mention size and quantity. The cost for event T-Shirts and hats will be \$15.00.

Sponsored by The Utah Miata Club

Board elections set for June 6

Host: Charlotte Fellers

Contact: editorcharlotte@gmail.com

OR 253-333-7442

You pay your dues to the PSMC each year and then do what? Wait around to see what is going to happen in the next 12 months?

Here's your chance to be a part of the action! The PSMC Board will meet June 6 for the annual board elections. Not only will we vote in our new Chief Operating Officer (Tom Millar is the only person running for this office so it's likely he'll be elected--although he probably wouldn't mind if you'd like the job instead) but we'll vote for some holdover board members and some new faces, who have offered to step up. The board will hold a regular meeting after the elections.



*Tom Millar,
Incoming COO*

The board has the responsibility for making sure the by-laws are followed and for making decisions about the expenditure of those annual dues. The board also has to be certain the rules are followed for safe driving on the nation's highway system and also for keeping the insurance premiums paid so we are not liable for unusual "incidents" that may happen at our events.

The board also has to approve the annual calendar of drives and other events. Finally, the board hosts two big events each year, the annual Detailin' Day in May and the Great Northwest Gathering in August or September.

Would you like to have a say in some of these decisions? All members are welcome and encouraged to attend the board meetings and get involved. Remember that this is a volunteer organization and your input is needed to make the club a success. While we are not overly structured (like the U.S. Senate, for instance!) we do like to maintain decorum and courtesy at board meetings. There's plenty of fun joking around involved and always plenty of good food and drink.

So here are the details for the June 6 meeting:

It's in the backyard at the home of Charlotte Fellers in Auburn. The hamburgers will go on the grill at 11:30 a.m. and lunch will commence shortly thereafter. Your job is to bring a side dish, like a salad, caviar and crackers (just kidding), chips 'n salsa, or fresh tomatoes and lettuce to put on the burgers. If you'd rather eat a veggie burger or a chicken burger, or a steak burger, or a salmon burger, or an egg sandwich, then bring that "filler" too, as only hamburgers will be provided. Beverages

are open to your taste—some are up for a glass of wine or a cold beer (especially if it's a hot day!) while others of you might be satisfied with a cold soda. Iced tea, ice water and hot coffee or hot tea will be provided by the hostess. Condiments for the burgers, including cheese, will be provided as well. Ice cream always makes a nice dessert on a hot day, so that will be provided, but anything else for dessert—well, you're on your own.

It would be helpful if you bring a yard chair to sit in. Six or seven will be provided, but there are more people than chairs in this backyard, so bring one if you want one.

Directions: From Hwy 18, take the Black Diamond/Auburn Exit. At the bottom of the exit hill, go LEFT toward Auburn. Follow this road as it goes over the railroad tracks and turns toward the city. You'll come to a stop sign, which you will want to go straight through, and drive to 4th St NE. Turn RIGHT and look for the gray house on the left, #1800. Park in the 3-car driveway or on the street and come to the backyard (if it's a cold day, we'll be inside, so don't worry. In that case, knock on the front door).

Great Northwest Gathering plans are underway

Hosts: PSMC Board

Contact: Bill Cooper

425-432-9666

Saturday, August 8, 2009

Details are going to be announced soon for the 2009 edition of the Great Northwest Gathering. Rest assured we'll have the same fun times we have had in the past, including some great driving games, crazy water games, and good food.

This year's event will be at Coop's Miata in Maple Valley, where there's room to park at least 250 cars, so invite everyone you know. Cost will be \$15 per driver and \$10 per passenger. Arrive around 10 a.m. to sign up for the fun 'n games, and then plan to stay for lunch and the wrap-up in early afternoon.

Door prizes will be distributed throughout the day. This is a "can't miss" event because you'll have a chance to catch up with lots of people from the big world of Miatas.

As always, there will be opportunities to volunteer to help out with planning and operating the games, taking tickets, mealtime, or setup and cleanup. If you can do any of these things, contact a board member or call Coop for a list of jobs.

upcoming events

Olympic Peninsula tour takes off October 3 & 4

Hosts: Tom & Cindy Millar

Date: October 3 & 4, 2009

Contact: 206-390-3469

by Tom Millar

If you missed the 2008 version of the Olympic Peninsula Tour, you won't want to take a chance on registering late this year. The tour, hosted by Tom and Cindy Millar, proved to be one of the few overnight excursions held in 2008 and was a great time for all who went. Attracting about 15 cars, this tour is sure to bring back some "second-timers" and hopefully, some new first-time adventurers this year.

The most breathtaking scenery occurs on this drive when the cars pull up alongside the Pacific Ocean and spend the night at the Pacific Beach Hotel and Resort. Because it's late fall, the drive is likely to include some beautiful fall colors to enjoy and with any luck, a lack of the downpour endured a year ago.

This pristine tour will begin at 7 Cedar's Casino in Sequim with lunch on or before 11:30 a.m. There will be three departure points from around the Puget Sound: Hawk's Prairie Casino and Restaurant in Lacey; Edmonds Ferry Terminal; and

the Keystone Ferry Terminal on Whidbey Island. For further details on these separate departure points and times, contact Tom Millar at 206-390-3469.

Specific tour plans on the first day are still under construction as the hosts have not yet completed the pre-ride. However, the tour will proceed around the beautiful Lake Crescent and on to Forks, even more popular with the release of the movie about the area, *Twilight*. Driving along the Pacific coast, traveling through Kalalock and Quinault, the tour will deviate once again from Highway 101 onto the Moclips Highway, arriving at Pacific Beach Motel & Conference Center in time to check in, enjoy dinner and continue our grand time.

The Pacific Beach Motel & Conference Center is a Navy recreational facility, operated out of Naval Station Puget Sound in Everett. Tom Millar, a retired Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander, will be your host at the Navy facility. This facility was once an active Naval station, monitoring submarine activities along the Pacific coast. Today, it is a full service recreational facility featuring several motel-like rooms and "Presidential Suites", with pricing ranging from \$50 - \$87 per night. It also has a game room, bowling alley, outside activities, gift shop, restaurant and a full service bar. Tour participants will need to make their own reservations by calling 1-888-463-6697, referencing Tom Millar, LCDR (ret.), USCGR and the Puget Sound Miata Club. This is the way this works: When you make a reservation, your credit card will be charged for the stay. However, you have up until 10 days before the date of arrival to cancel the reservation and receive a credit to your card. A block of 15 rooms has been reserved for our party. The Navy also has a web site at: <http://www.navylifepnw.com/site/68/Pacific->



The rainy weekend weather didn't dampen spirits on the '08 Olympic Peninsula Run. Plan on another great time this year!

**Photo by
Charlotte Fellers**

[Beach.aspx](#). Following dinner, there is a party room that we can use for an after-dinner gathering.

Following breakfast the next day, the tour will continue along the coast for awhile and then inland where we will visit another winery, West Port Winery, and enjoy some twisty roads on our way back home.



**June 21 is
Father's Day!**

A bird's eye view of deployment

(Editor's Note: This is one in a (hoped-for) series of dispatches posted directly to us from A.J. McGranahan of Lakewood, who was deployed in April to Afghanistan with his National Guard unit based near Ft. Lewis. He has offered to share his insights from the front lines of the war. He left his wife Vicki at home to take care of the dog and the Miata while he is away.)

10 April 2009

Day Two in Afghanistan....

My flight on a C-17 of 21 hours flying time wasn't as bad as I had visualized. The one advantage of flying with the military is that (if the space is available) you can pull up some vacant real estate on the deck of the aircraft and roll out a sleeping bag. We did a couple of in-flight refueling enroute, first over the eastern sea board of the U.S. and then another somewhere over Asia before our arrival at Bagram at 0415 hrs. on Friday, April 10. Somewhere we lost a day in travel. We went through two nights in 21 hours of flying....go figure...

Bagram Air Base is located at 4900' which is surrounded by the Hindu-Kush mountain range which is spectacular. The tops of the surrounding peaks are at 12-15K' according to an A10 pilot that I talked to. Bagram Air Base reminds me of the boom towns that sprang up during the California gold rush. A series of shanty towns/buildings held together with a nail and a prayer. Our compound was originally constructed by the Soviets during their occupation in the 80's. I've been told that the building that I'm living in has a Soviet aircraft wing used to construct the roof. The construction techniques used by the Russians is rather primitive by today's standards, however still functional. Our compound was built on a rock pile, and is going through some new billeting construction. The Soviets left their military junk scattered all over the place amongst all the mine fields. The DFAC (old school would be called the "chow hall") puts out good meals.

I've met my counterpart on Day One, and we've already started off by him educating me with a "book of knowledge" with all the necessary resources of what my day-to-day duties will consist of. I'm confident that by the time these folks leave within the next couple of weeks that I'll have a good knowledge of my day-to-day duties and responsibilities.

Day Five....My days are full and I still haven't found my rhythm (yet) ... I'm still off on my sleep and eating habits, and am trying to find a routine that will keep my head above the water and keep me focused on the task at hand....Bagram I believe, has a population somewhere between 10-15,000 and is truly a cosmopolitan city. I believe I've successfully identified many different nationalities, i.e., Polish, French, Americans, Armenians, Afghanis', Indians, Bangladesh, Swiss, Czech Republic, many different civilian contractors, and probably many other nationalities that I have no idea who or what they are.

Day 15 – Still hanging in there. Starting to get some normal sleep and eating habits.

Greetings from **wou**nderful Afghanistan. I'm going on Day 33..The reason I don't write so much is because the internet speed over here is extremely slow... I'm just now starting to find my rhythm. In the evenings. When I get off I usually change into my p.t. uniform ride a bicycle down to the Pat Tillman U.S.O. and use their free wi fi internet on my laptop, watch a movie on their big screen, drink water, eat some cookies, and in general relax until about 9 p.m. when I go back to my barracks.

Bagram is the biggest F.O.B. (Forward Operating Base) in Afghanistan and has a lot of amenities. I've never seen so many different nationalities. Armenian, Czech Republic, French, Afghan, Swiss, Indians, Pakistanis, Egyptians, Bangladesh, Australian, Poles. Everyday I see a different uniform that I've never seen before. Lot's of civilian contractors, everybody from dishwashers to engineers. KBR (Kellogg's Brown Root) is the contractor. Lots of money...The American taxpayer is paying a fortune everyday for this war...The food bill alone must run into the thousands of dollars daily. They feed us real good. We live only a couple hundred yards from the runway. F15, A10's C17's, Boeing 747's, Russian Cargo aircraft, Russian helicopters are constantly going on sorties at all hours. I think those F15 jocks get their jollies by turning on their afterburners while their taking off and zooking all over the place.

One of the things that happens occasionally is whenever an American soldier dies, they have a mandatory stand-to at



A.J. McGranahan poses with a falcon trained by a local Afghani. A.J. says it's fun to watch the falcon chase down other game birds. Photo courtesy of A.J. McGranahan

0300 hrs. along our main street here in Bagram and they put the coffin in the back of a HUMWV with the pallbearers and they video

photograph the procession for the next of kin. That has a
continued on page 10

aftermath

MG Tulip Rallye draws 300 cars

by Charlotte Fellers
Sounder Editor

On a rainy morning in April, I loaded up my mom in the Miata and we entered the MG Car Club's Tulip Rallye, along with 299 of our closest car club friends. This was truly a mixed bag of clubs, featuring not just Miatas or MG's but also Corvettes, Cameros, Cadillacs, Mini Coopers, and any variety of other "club" cars. People came to this rallye from all over the country. One car was from Michigan, while several made the trip from Vancouver, BC, and others came from neighboring states, such as Montana, Oregon, and Idaho. It was quite a crowd, all in all!

The rallye took off from Cascade Mall in Burlington and headed straight for the tulip fields. I know of at least 50 cars that got lost on the first turn out of the gate since there were no road signs to help us (of course, I was one of them!) But getting back on track was not that difficult—we had a lot of other cars we could follow to find our way back!

A. Bremmerton
C. Vancouver

B. Burlington
D. Spokane

After leaving the tulip and daffodil fields, we headed off on some great backroads toward Whiteby Island and Deception Pass. Quite a few people were out driving that day, and as long as you were not "in it to win it" the route proved to be enjoyable and fun.

One stop was built in at the Coupeville High School in the charming town of Coupeville, where the drivers were encouraged to drop off canned goods for the "Giving from the Heart" food drive, affiliated with Northwest Harvest.

The endpoint for this drive was at the Northern Lights Casino, where a plethora of unusual door prizes were awarded to lucky people (such as a flamingo lamp and a hula girl dash ornament)! If you've never done it, it's a great drive with some fun-loving people.

(Trivia Answers: 1. C 2. D)



The steep hills and sharp turns in Coupeville made for some fun driving for Miatas on the Tulip Rallye April 25, hosted by the MG Car Club. Above, PSMC members Dave and Vicki Olson prepare for a sharp left.

Photo by Charlotte Fellers

While the instructions were a bit convoluted, we did enjoy the somewhat eclectic questions posed by the rallye organizers. Here is some trivia taken from the rallye sheet that you should know for your next "table game" event (answers appear at the end of this article):

1. Which U.S. President had the given name of Leslie King? (He legally changed his name after his mother remarried):

- A. Millard Filmore
- B. Ronald Reagan
- C. Gerald Ford
- D. Herbert Hoover

2. In which Washington city is it illegal to purchase a television set on a Sunday?

New Faces

We hope to see you at an event soon!

- Jeff & Danna Kopanke, Sammamish '95 Merlot
- Linda Page & Carl Bergan, Anacortes '92 Red
- Michael & Connie Coleman-Lacadie, Lakewood '02 Silver
- Matthew & Hannah Marzynski, Seattle '91 Red
- Al Pitts, Enumclaw '99 Emerald Green

Familiar Faces

Renew old friendships at an event soon!

- Dennis & Joanne Thompson, Talent, OR '06 Red
- Jeffrey & Eileen Buckingham, Tacoma '97 Montego Blue
- John Conn, Poulsbo '93 White
- Joe & Olga Beretti, Stanwood '04 Red
- Ken & Pat Baldwin, Federal Way '92 Red
- Suzanne & Raymond Gardner, Maple Valley '06 Red
- Jeff & Patti Johnson, Auburn '99 Silver
- Dick & Gail Hankinson, Edmonds '07 Galaxy Gray
- Jim & Mary Ehrmin, Lynnwood '92 Black
- Russell & Deborah Hill, Kent '91 Red
- Michael Fitzpatrick, Kent '97 Montego
- Michael Gillman, Bellevue '06 Winning Blue
- James Odle, Clinton '06 Marble White
- Charlotte Fellers, Auburn '90 White
- Bruce & Kathy Gustafson, Tacoma '97 Black
- Randy Patterson, Lacey '02 Titanium
- Joy Maxion, Sequim '03 Emerald Green
- Gayle Lazur, Lynnwood '01 Black ML 320
- Sandra Huber, Monroe Red
- Lois & Don Herbert, Tacoma '02 Midnight Blue

Tulip Rallye winner tells all!

by Denise Williamson

It was a dark and stormy morning. Yuck! What a way to start the 28th Annual Tulip Rallye. Susan (my co-driver) and I drove through the rain to Burlington, where hundreds of cars were gathered. There were many old cars (like Morgans) as well as newer cars. In fact, I have never seen so many MINIs in my life, including SCCA Nationals. We also saw some familiar faces from autocross, rally, and other car clubs.

After what seemed like forever, we finally got to the start line. While we were there, Susan noticed that we were one of the last cars! We figured we'd better not dilly-dally, so off we went. And promptly got lost.

No matter, we got back on track. While answering tricky questions (and some unrelated trivia questions; see facing page), we enjoyed the beautiful scenery of the Skagit Valley and Whidbey Island. After about 3 ½ hours, we made it to the end, handed in our packet, and hoped for the best. In the meantime, we looked at cars, socialized, and had a little picnic. Fortunately, the sun finally came out!

The raffle was kooky and somewhat Archie McPhee-related (a boxing nun puppet, anyone?), but we didn't win anything. Well, maybe we did, but as we were more interested in



Denise Williamson, our intrepid Autocross reporter, captured the prize for the 2009 MG Tulip Rallye in the Miata division. She proudly displays her prize alongside co-pilot Susan.

Photo courtesy of Denise Williamson

socializing, we weren't paying a lot of attention. Then the awards started, so we paid a little more attention. When they announced the winners of "The Miata Club", and it was us, we were really surprised! Later, we found out that the event organizers had somehow lumped together PSMC and that other Miata club, which made some people a little unhappy. Apparently, this had happened before. So, if you go to the Tulip Rallye next year, beware: you may be competing against more than your fellow PSMC members.

Spring Autocross season heats up the tracks

by Denise Williamson

Spring is here, and so are some more autocrosses. First up is BSCC #2, held in Bremerton on April 19. There were 216 entrants, but only three PSMC drivers (which is unusual). In Sports C, *Tom Slipp* placed third in a '99 Miata with a time of 49.217. *Dieter Beldi* placed second in Medium Sedan in his '07 Mazdaspeed 3 with a 47.947. In Sports Prepared, *TJ McGeary* placed third in his '91 Miata. I'm sure these guys wouldn't mind seeing some familiar PSMC faces at the next event!

On May 3, the Chuckanut Sports Car Club had an autocross at the old Blaine Airport, but no PSMC drivers were there. Why? Because they were at SCCA #2! Although it was the first Packwood event of the year, the event attracted 160 drivers (including six PSMC members). In Stock 2, *Rich Blake* placed sixth (and had four clean runs) in his '94 Miata with an ES-indexed time of 50.147.

Dieter Beldi won the Stock 3 class (and had four clean runs) in his '07 Mazdaspeed 3 with a DS-indexed time of 49.898. In Non-Stock 1, *Tim Irwin* won a second place trophy in an '01 Porsche Boxster S with a BSP-indexed time of 51.289. *Bob Bundy* again showed us that he could drive his '88 Mazda 323 GTX just as well as his Miata by winning the Street Mod class. All of his runs were clean, but his fastest was his last: 59.154. He further improved his time to a 58.855 in the Time Only afternoon class.

In Super Street Mod (previously known as Street Mod 2), *Rickey Carlson* made his season debut memorable by winning the class with a 61.669. *Glen Hernandez* placed sixth in Open PAX in a last-minute-ride in an '84 Porsche 944 with an ES-indexed time of 48.630 and all clean runs. Kudos for this event go to *Glen Hernandez*, who had the ninth Top Indexed Time of the day. Not bad for a car borrowed at the last minute, although this hints at one of the cars you will see him in later on this year.

Why did he need to borrow car, you ask? Because he and his co-drivers corded their tires at Saturday's practice. Whoops! He'll also be driving another car this year. It's a car that some of you may remember him driving ten years ago....

June Autocross

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

14 BSCC Event #4	Bremmerton Raceway
20 NWR/SCCA Regional ProSolo #2	Packwood
21 NWR/SCCA Event #5	Packwood
21 ChuckaNut sports Car Club #4	Blaine Airport
27-28 SSSCC Events #5 & #6	Tri-Cities Raceway

Not your average trip abroad

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tendency to make me feel a little grim. All of us have to carry our sidearms on us at all times. My unit (The fighten 741st EOD Bn) aka "Death from the Rear" has allowed us to carry a 9mm Glock which is a lot better than carrying a carbine. If I have to fire that pistol, somebody's going to get hurt, and I hope it's not going to be me.

One of the by-products of Afghanistan aside from opium is precious stones, rubies, gems, rugs, and a lot of stone wear. Outside our wire there's a lot of small children tending their goats, sheep and cattle amongst all the Russian junk and land mines that were left over from the Russian occupation of the 80's. I'm sure that sometimes those children aren't always focused on the task at hand and that the livestock wanders into a minefield, and you wind up with goat cabob strung all over the concentina wire

Most military units consist of a core of specialized MOS specific soldiers, i.e., This EOD aka: Explosive Ordnance Disposal battalion has several (subject matter experts), with the remaining unit made up of people like me (Sr. Maintenance Supervisor). I advise the Command of where all their MRAP (mine resistant anti personal) vehicles are at any given time. My day usually consists of putting out small fires in the way of general accounting and tracking the movements of different types of

We have clerks, computer geeks, administrators, mail clerks, and a variety of other paper hangers that perform the necessary service support that any given unit needs to function. One thing that I have become very much aware of after serving 39 years in the military is that the handwriting is on the wall that I have gone one too many bouts. It's time for me to retire, before I get K.O.'d. Keeping up with the technology and all the acronyms can be mind boggling. I'm getting an old man's attitude. When I'm done with this ten-month tour I will most likely submit my request for retirement. I'm banking every penny of my military pay that I'm earning over here. It's getting up into the seventy degree temperature. It hasn't even started to get really hot yet. People who know this place say that during the dead of summer (they call it the 120 days of wind) that we can expect to get up to 115 degrees F. Our office and living quarters have air conditioning. Actually the best place to light during the heat of the day is inside one of our Armored Up HUMWV's. They have really good air-conditioning. And finally in closing, I welcome any e-mail correspondence from my many Miata club friends. Please feel free to contact me through my traditional private e-mail: McGranaghan52@msn.com or my government e-mail: andrew.j.mcgranaghan@afghan.swa.army.mil Please continue e-mailing me.

A new event brings an odd proposal

by Duncan Johnson

Here's a wild idea for a club event: Eat and Greet. Members simply gather on a Tuesday evening at a specified eatery with nothing to do except have fun together. No business, no planning, no competition, no road run, no rally, no tour, no autocross, nobody has to cook dinner or do the dishes, no nothing, just good times and pleasant company. Radical concept there! So what did happen? We pulled into the Longhorn BBQ in Auburn and parked the Miatas right out front by the road in a small but conspicuous car show. We went in to a reserved room (the restaurant was un-busy, perhaps a sign of these troubled times) and gathered round the table. We drank cold draft beer and such and pigged out on slabs of baby back ribs and such. We socialized and learned a lot. Did you know someone is going to Miata World and then leaving his car in Texas and flying home so he'll have the car pre-positioned for the next Miata meet he's attending down south? Someone else just found a new mountain road in Oregon. Yet another has a daughter who works for Mazda at Port of Tacoma where the cars come in. Too cool. We scanned the list of PSMC Coming Events and pondered who should be attending what. The chatter just got better and better. In olden days among the speedway crowd, this was called "bench racing." We don't do enough of it.

Attendees included host/organizer Bill Bell ('06 copper,) Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson ('99 silver,) Jim Giffin ('02 Crystal Blue,) Bob & Marti Mott ('03 Garnet Red,) and newest enthusiast Al Pitts ('99 Emerald Green.) There were also two longtime PSMC members, both getting up there in age, both single, and he and she had known each other many years. They were sitting across from each other; he made a few admiring glances and finally got up the courage to ask her, "Will you marry me?" After about six seconds of careful consideration she said, "Yes! Yes! I will!" The meeting ended and after a few more pleasantries they said good night and each drove their Miata home to their assisted living communities. Next morning he was troubled. "Did she say yes or no?" He couldn't remember. Try as he might he couldn't recall. Not even a faint memory. With trepidation he called her on the phone. First he explained he didn't remember as well as he used to, then recalled the lovely evening past. As he gained more courage he inquired, "When I asked if you would marry me, did you say yes or no?" She replied, "Why, I said, yes, yes, I will, and I meant it with all my heart! I'm so glad that you called, because I couldn't remember who had asked me."

The next Eat And Greet will be June 23 at Jimmy Mac's Roadhouse in Renton, 225 SW 7th St. (shares a parking lot with WalMart). Incurable romantics may RSVP on the club web site.

President's Message

By Mindy Bohnas
PSMC President



I guess it's that time of the year for my final President's Message. In some respects, the time went quickly and in others it seemed to take a lifetime. All in all, I had a great time and there are many happy memories. I already had many Miata friends and FAMILY, but I continue to have room in my life for many more. I didn't accomplish some of the changes I would have liked to, but I plan to stick around and keep working on them. I highly recommend to anyone who wants see this club continue and flourish for another 20+ years to become a board member so you can help that happen. If you want changes to the way events happen or are planned, the only way to do so is to become a board member or at least attend the board meetings so the board can hear your ideas. I'm sure I will see many of you at events in the future.

In May we had 2 parades, the Sequim parade ended up not needing any drivers for royalty so the parade people didn't go. The Poulsbo parade was great on May 16th! Weather was almost too hot, but we all had a great time. The Shelton Paul Bunyan parade hasn't happened yet (as I write this message), but I'm sure it will be great as well! We always need drivers to carry royalty or dignitaries and also have room for cars without special riders at most parades. Please contact Dan White by email at miata@sillyoldbear.com if you are interested in attending any upcoming parades on the calendar.

I must mention that the date for the 2009 Miatacross has been changed to Sunday, September 27th. The new field we found made changes to their site usage policy, which in turn made changes to dates of availability, so the Corvette club bumped the BEAC event which in turn had to bump our Miatacross date. All of the Chiefs still feel this date will be a good one with the possibility of good weather and a good turnout. The only slight conflict is the Leavenworth Autumn Leaf Festival Parade happening on Sept 26th, which means that I won't be planning any special lunches or an overnight stay with a drive back after that parade this year. But someone else may want to do so. Give me a call if you are interested.

This month we have the election meeting on June 6th at Charlotte's home in Auburn. We DO still need someone to willing to fill the role of Communication Officer (AKA Secretary) It's not hard to do but will add a bit too much to the normal plate of duties for any other officer if someone isn't found for the job. Please contact me at 360-895-0931 or Tom Millar at 425-337-0306 if you are willing to step in and help the club run smoothly during the next term. We are able to add a name to the ballot on June 6th if necessary.

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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 _____

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Insurance Coordinator _____ Gayle Lazur
Data Coordinator _____ Sean McGriff
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

2009 Calendar

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

June 2009

- 6 Board Elections and Board Meeting, noon, Auburn. RSVP on the website. Details, page 5.
- 13 Second Sloppy Saturday, hosted by Sean/Pam McGriff
- 23 Second 'Eat & Greet,' hosted by Bill Bell, Jimmy Mac's Restaurant, Renton, see p. 10
- 27 Fathoms of Fun Parade, Pt. Orchard, 4 p.m.

July 2009

- 3-5 Historics Races, 8-5 daily, Pacific Raceways, Auburn
- 4 Kingston Parade, noon, followed by lunch
- 11 Tour of Mt. Ranier Scenic Railroad, hosted by Bill Bell (**needs a co-host**)
- 17-19 Two Lanes in Two Days Drive to Willamette Valley Explore Oregon Event, in Sisters, OR hosted by Dahlke & Johnson, see page 4.
- 18 Whidbey Island Tour, hosted by Frank Shriver & Carol Kus and Tom & Cindy Millar, see page 3.
- 19 Chinatown Parade, 5 p.m. (tentative) (**Needs a host**)
- 21 'Eat & Greet', hosted by Bill Bell, place TBD
- 25 Silverdale Whaling Days Parade, 8:30 a.m., lunch to follow

August 2009

- 8 Annual PSMC Northwest Gathering, see page 5.
- 15 Mt. Baker Tour with Sea To Sky Club
- 23 Wine Tasting Drive & Eat, Gig Harbor
- 25 Fourth 'meet & greet', hosted by Bill Bell, XXX Root Beer Drive-In, Issaquah.
- 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 & Allen/Cheryl Ohlsen.
- 25 Leavenworth AutumnFest Parade
- 27 Miatacross, Shelton, Sanderson Field, see page 1

October 2009

- 3-4 Olympic Peninsula Tour, hosted by Tom/Cindy Millar, see page 6.
- 31 Halloween Party, hosted by Mike/Lilly Springer, Tacoma
- 31 Bremerton Safe Trick-or-Treat, 5-8 p.m. with drive to Springers at 8 p.m. hosted by Bohnas.

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

President's Message

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The next event in June is the Second Sloppy Saturday drive on June 13th hosted by Sean & Pam McGriff. June 23rd will be the 2nd installment in Bill Bell's Eat and Greet weeknight events. This one is set in Renton at Jimmy Mac's. Try to make it if you live nearby. A new member joined after attending the last one in Auburn and he came to the Poulsbo parade! The final event in June is the Fathoms of Fun Parade in Port Orchard on June 27th. It's a twilight parade so most of us stop to eat dinner at the Puerta Vallarta restaurant before heading for home.

Thank you all for a wonderful year!

Life's Short, Drive a Miata

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