

Miata Sounder



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

Upcoming Events

August 8

The Gathering; details on the right!

August 15

Mt. Baker Tour with Sea To Sky Club, details page 4.

August 23

Wine Tasting & Tour of Gig Harbor, details, page 2.

August 25

Meet n Greet, XXX Root Beer Drive-In, Issaquah, details, page 3.

August 29

Le May Museum open house. Details on the website.

September 5

Road Run to South Bend, and South Bend Parade, details page 5.

September 18-20

'50's & '60's Beach Party at Long Beach, details on page 3.

September 27

Miata cross Fundraiser, coverage starts on p. 7.

The Gathering!

Hosts: PSMC Board

Contact: Bill Cooper, 425-432-9666

It's time to get in your Miata and drive to Maple Valley to participate in a long-standing tradition: the 2009 Great Northwest Gathering of Miatas August 8.

Besides fun 'n games with valuable prizes awarded to winners, the concours'd elegance car show for stock and aftermarket cars also will include handmade-with-care lunch. Lunch will feature London Broil steaks or fresh grilled chicken, baked beans, a salad, rolls and dessert. Add in some social time, door prizes and lots of sunshine, and you've got a great day!

A late addition to this year's festivities will be Ralph and Linda Doty, who have a home-based t-shirt business. They will take a digital photo of you with your car (or just your car) and transfer the image to a t-shirt (for a fee). They'll be available all day and will bring along all the supplies needed for this cool opportunity to showcase your car.

Festivities begin at 10 a.m. with lunch served at noon. Games will commence at 11 a.m.

If you would like to help set up tents and tables and get things ready for the Gathering, Coop can always use a hand. Contact him to volunteer at 425-432-9666.



Lunch is always a highlight of the Great Northwest Gathering. Members Bob and Marti Mott enjoy a meal at the 2008 Gathering.

Photo by Mindy Bohnas

Cost this year will be \$25 for each car, driver, and passenger or \$15 per car and driver, payable at the gate. Please RSVP on the PSMC website at www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org.

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

From the South: I-5 north; take the North Bend/Auburn, Hwy 18 Exit; Maple Valley/Renton Exit; Left over the overpass on SE 231st St; Up the hill to SE 210th St; Go left into Coop's.

upcoming events

Don't miss the last 'Meet N Greet' event!

By Denton R. Fender

The final "Meet N Greet" of the year will be August 25 at the well-known XXX Root Beer Drive-In in Issaquah. The address is 98 NE Gilman Blvd., Issaquah, WA. Not only will there be great weather, this is an outdoor venue with plenty of parking!

Eat-and-Greet events are PSMC's form of "social networking," only with real people and real sports cars, not the imaginary friends and video games one finds in social networking out in cyberspace. For this one a growing crowd gathered at Jimmy Mac's Roadhouse in Renton, a BBQ joint with peanut shells on the floor and a few patrons settling differences out back.

Attendees included Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson ('99 silver,) Bob & Marti Mott ('03 Garnet Red) with daughter Beth Mott ('04 Holiday Rambler - say what?) Jim & Peggy Giffin ('02 Crystal Blue,) Al Pitts ('99 green,) Jack & Mary Ann Wise ('96 white, just dropped in from Sequim!) Pam & Sean McGriff ('07 Galaxy Green,) and host/narrator Bill Bell ('06 copper red.)

Bill reported on his trip to Miata World in Texas where he drove thousands of miles (and got a distance award plus many other door prizes) and met hundreds of enthusiasts, went on all sorts of runs, ate too much, and even got to lap Texas Speedway where the Miatas set a Guinness record for biggest parade lap with something like 300 cars on the track at the same time.

Subsequently Bill went to another Miata meet in Eureka

Springs, Arkansas, (what the heck, it's on the way home) for another weekend of motorized fun and games. While he was there, the local event organizers drafted Bill to work a road rally checkpoint along a little-used road, way back in the hills about 25 miles outside Chitlin Switch, Arkansas.

Bill was standing at the roadside, when out of the woods came two local mountain men on a squirrel-hunting expedition, characters right out of "Deliverance." Being a local good-old-boy himself, Bill engaged them in conversation, of course, and it soon became apparent they didn't know anything about road rallies or Miatas; indeed they had never before even seen an automobile!

Then the first rally car came zooming up the road, a shiny little Miata roadster, a young lady at the controls, her long golden hair blowing gracefully in the warm summer breezes.

The mountain men ducked behind some trees to see what this might be. They were men of action, and one grabbed his squirrel gun and fired, right there. BLAM! BLAM! His partner asked him, "Walllll, Zeke, do you think you killed it?" Zeke replied, "Ain't sure, but at least it spit up that woman it had in its mouth, 'fore it ran



Look for this landmark sign at the XXX Root Beer Drive-In, a popular spot for special cars to gather.

Photo from XXX Root Beer Website, by David Bangs

for cover in them bushes."

(Editor's Note: Only part of this story is true, but you can rest assured that the summer Eat 'n Greets are very popular with lots of tall tales told!)

Enjoy a late summer tour to Long Beach!

Hosted by: Springers & Ohlsens; RSVP: www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org

Come join us on an ala carte tour celebrating the last hurrah of summer. The party begins Friday September 18 and runs through Sunday, September 20. While staying in Long Beach at the Breakers hotel, we'll barbeque, dance, sight see & shop.

Friday will feature a back-road-twisties tour starting in Tacoma at 9:00 a.m., with a stop for lunch. Alternatively, you may just join us for dinner in Long Beach Friday evening or on Saturday morning for a light drive/poker run. Saturday evening we'll start with a barbeque pot luck in a picnic area, then retire to a party room for dancing. The theme for the dance is "wear what your wore in the '60's (or what your parents wore). Bring along CD's of your favorite dance music for the dance party.

The Breakers rooms start at \$88 per night for a bedroom with a kitchenette. Suites start at \$139 with a fireplace. Also available are two-bedroom suites and dog-friendly units. Dog-friendly units come with additional fees. Call 1-800-219-9833 to reserve a room. The hotel is located a block off Highway 103 on 26th street (look for a large sign on the left).

After you RSVP on the website, please send an email to us for a complete itinerary with times & route map and let us know when you'll be joining us.

upcoming events

Mt. Baker Run links two clubs

August 15, 7:30 a.m.

Host: Bill Bell Contact: 425 420-6125.

The 3rd Annual Mt Baker via Chuckanut Drive Run with the Sea to Sky Miata Club of Vancouver, BC will happen on August 15, 2009. We will be meeting at 7:30 a.m. at the Safeway parking lot at 3532 172nd St NE, Arlington, WA, located at Exit 206 Smokey Point on the Southeast Side of the I-5 Exit. You can walk or drive to various stores and pick up what you need for the morning breakfast.

We will be leaving at 8:00 a.m. sharp and driving to Burlington and taking Chuckanut Drive. Going North, the exit is just north of Burlington and marked Route 11, Exit 231. Chuckanut Drive takes you through gorgeous farmlands and in and out of the towns of Allen & Bow. It continues along the rock shoulder of the Chuckanut Mountains. From there, you overlook the San Juan Islands from any of the many viewpoints along the way. There are also many spots for picnics or just getting out and stretching your legs. The drive continues all

the way to the 1880's brick town of Fairhaven, now a suburb of Bellingham.

After completing the Chuckanut Drive, we will be making a short stop in Bellingham at Starbucks and driving on to Mt. Baker where we will meet at the Sea to Sky Club at the National Forest Park Office in Glacier, WA around 11a.m. We will purchase our one day parking pass for \$5 there.

We will combine the two clubs and drive to Mt. Baker where we will be enjoying the beauty of Mt. Baker, talking Miatas and visiting with other clubs members.

After visiting Mt. Baker, we will be eating at Milano's in Glacier with the Sea to Sky Club. It is an authentic Italian restaurant, featuring fresh pasta. All of the pasta and ravioli are made fresh in-house. Sauces featuring local seafood and sausages are all cooked to order. Also available is a small wine list and several Italian desserts, including Tiramisu.

Please bring your camera, binoculars, suntan lotion, sunglasses, hat, and a full tank of gas

Olympic Peninsula tour filling up fast

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.

So far, nine cars and drivers (with some passengers) have registered for this fun tour that takes in a variety of scenic areas on the peninsula. You will have the opportunity to spend some quality time with other club members as well as visit a quiet and beautiful Washington beachfront.

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.

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 Quinalt, 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. 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-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, Westport Winery, and enjoy some twisty roads on our way back home. Some in the group may stop off for lunch for a last hurrah of the weekend.

parades

Chinatown Parade delights; next up: South Bend

South Bend Hosts: Duncan Johnson and Dee Dahlke

Contact: 253-845-2424

Puget Sound Miata Club and Corvettes de Olympia will again join forces for a scenic late summer road run to South Bend, Washington, on Willapa Bay, driving through some of the best sports car roads in the state. The Corvettes are leading this year. On arrival we will then drive in South Bend's "Come And Play On Labor Day" parade.

Leave at 9:15 AM from Barnes & Noble bookstore at 1530 Black Lake Blvd SW, Olympia, WA 98502.

Directions: From Interstate 5 in Olympia take exit 104 onto US 101 northbound. Take the Black Lake Blvd exit off US 101, go right at bottom of ramp, and the store is on your right in about a block. Some of us will be gathering at 8:00 AM for breakfast at the Denny's at the same parking lot. If lost, call the hosts' cell phone 253-861-4554.

If you and your sports car are already at the ocean beaches for the Labor Day weekend, feel free to join us at the start of the parade.

Please RSVP by signing up at the website, www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org.

Editor's Note: All Miata and Corvette parade drivers are welcome to stop in Raymond for a home cooked "Fish Fry and Fixin's" at Tom's place after the parade. (Tom is Rosa Umemoto's brother and the fish fry is a long-standing tradition each year following the parade).



Left, the Chinatown Princesses and Queen are happy to oblige Frank Shriver's camera for a photo before the Chinatown Parade. Above, PSMC drivers were hosted at the House of Hong for an after-parade dinner. Pictured, back row, from left: Gary Olson, Charlotte Fellers, Bill Bell, Dan White; front row, from left: Frank Shriver, Mindy Bohnas, Bonnie Lohkamp. Not pictured: Mike Springer. (Photo courtesy of Dan White).



Whidbey Island Run delights all who attended

by Charlotte Fellers

There must be something intriguing about Whidbey Island, since the tour on July 18 attracted 20 cars and nearly 40 people! It was a great day to have tops down, with mild temperatures in the 70's on the island, and lots of great scenery to keep our eyes occupied.

The drive kicked off around 11:30 from a park 'n ride near the Clinton ferry dock. A historical perspective about each area visited included some fun facts about the island. For instance, the town of Clinton was actually named after a town of the same name in Michigan. It got its name from two brothers, Edward and Henry Hinman, who provided cordwood to steamers using the Puget Sound back in the 1870's.

From there, the drive wound around to Glendale, which has signs of a beaver dam's remains that washed out. Much of the debris is still visible. An interesting point on the tour was up next, Useless Bay, so named by Lt. Charles Wilkes of the U.S. Navy because it was too shallow for large ships and not naturally sheltered from storms coming down the straits. Today, it provides sweeping views and stunning scenery for all who go there.

Camano Island, the other part of Island County, is visible from Saratoga, which is located not far from Langley. However, while you can see the island, you can't get there from here; you have to go back to the mainland and take another ferry to get to Camano Island. And we thought King County was spread out!

One of the largest employers on the island is the Nichols Brothers Boat building company, located in Holmes Harbor. We heard several grumbles when we passed the Port Townsend Ferry Terminal near here. This ferry can take on only 50 cars, so it's a small ferry; on top of that, it also gets cancelled anytime there's a small weather problem. Three ferries got cancelled the day of our run, and a few of our tour guests had to take the ferry from Clinton and then drive home.

Next was a rest stop at Fort Casey, an interesting military post that was activated in 1900 with a 30-man detachment, growing to become the fourth largest military post in the Pacific Northwest by 1908. However, it closed in 1937, reopened during World War II, and was de-activated for keeps in 1950. The fort's main job was to prevent an enemy's approach to the Puget Sound from the straits.

Another interesting feature at Fort Casey is the lighthouse, built in 1860. Usually this historic building is open to the public, but when we visited, it was closed for construction. However, the fort has lots of great vista-viewing places and plenty of room for kite-flying, which was observed during our run.

Ebey's Landing was our next wide spot in the road, named after Colonel Ebey, who filed the first land claim on the island. Not only that, he was a customs agent for the area, a legislator, prosecutor, and the district attorney. Colonel Ebey met an unfortunate death at the hands of the Haida Indians of British Columbia in 1857, when he was killed in revenge



Miatas as far as the eye can see! The rest stop at Camp Casey provided a photo opportunity for the Whidbey Island Run.

Photo by Frank Shriver

for white troops that killed a Haida chief.

The county seat, Coupeville, was the next sight on this drive, followed by the drive to Deception Pass. The colorful history of the bridge over Deception Pass was related by a staff worker from Deception Pass State Park. He told the story of a woman who ran a ferry between Whidbey Island and Fidalgo Island for many years. She had a thriving ferry business, and managed to hold up construction of the bridge for about 10 years. Finally, when the New Deal and the WPA projects came on board, the bridge was built and opened in 1935, putting the ferry business out of business. This engineering feat is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and now has walking paths across the bridge and under the bridge providing an extra measure of safety for the many visitors to the bridge. Built 180 feet above the rushing waters below, Deception Pass State Park is the most visited state park in Washington. We can attest to that; traffic at this bottleneck was heavy—not just foot traffic, but also road traffic.

Following the stop at the park, everyone was invited back to the home of our Whidbey Island hosts—Frank Shriver and Carol Kus, who provided a delicious hamburger and hot dog cookout with the help of co-hosts Tom and Cindy Millar.

All in all, this was a fascinating day with lots to see and talk about. The view from the balcony was perhaps as breathtaking as any we saw all day; just as we sat down to eat, we looked out and saw an unobstructed view of cruise ships heading out into the straits.

If you missed this tour, you won't want to pass it up when it is offered again. Whidbey Island is an interesting, very scenic place to visit, especially in a Miata!

What to expect at Miatacross

by Denise Williamson

Would you like to give autocross a try? The first thing you'll need to do is find out the date, time and location of the next event. In the NW Region, the website for the Western Washington Sports Car Council is www.wwscc.org; the website for the Sports Car Council of America is www.nwr-scca.org. At these websites, you will also find directions to the event, any event-specific news, run order, rulebooks, and much more.

When you arrive at the site, the first thing you will do will be to sign the insurance waiver. This is required. If there are minor children with you, you must be their legal parent/guardian, as you will be required to fill out a separate insurance form for each child. Remember, a child is 17 years old or younger. Children are not allowed in most areas, so it's best to leave them home.

The first thing you will need to do upon arrival at an autocross is to register. Don't be late! At registration you will show your driver's license and membership card (if applicable), pay the entry fee (usually around \$25.00), buy a rulebook (if you don't already have one), and receive a timing card and coursemap. Fill out your timecard **clearly** and **completely**. After registering, you will need to get your worker assignment and get your car teched.

Everyone who autocrosses contributes by working during the event. It could be anything from timing/announcing (more experienced folks) to working the course (resetting cones knocked over by cars). When the person handing out worker assignments assigns you to a job, they will say something like, "You'll run 1 and work 3." You will need to remember this, so you might want to write it on your coursemap. Do **not** write it on your timing card. What "run 1, work 3" means is that you will autocross during the first run group, and you will work during the third run group.

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 or add the



hard top and will bundle for \$4000. Contact Nathan at 1-877-753-9123 or on the web at www.swantowninn.com.

You will need to prepare your car for tech inspection. Empty your car (including the trunk) of loose objects; remove the floor mat from the driver's side; change your tires (if applicable, and/or if you're not a Novice); remove hubcaps/center caps (if applicable); put your helmet in the passenger seat (if you have one); put your magnetic numbers on your car. If you don't have any, someone usually has white shoe polish/glass chalk to write the number on your window or windshield. Painter's tape works, too. When you're done doing all of this, put your timing card under your wiper and drive to the tech area (you'll see cars with their hoods up). Once there, open your hood and trunk. The tech inspectors will check your battery, tires, helmet, etc., plus a couple of other things.

After you've returned from tech inspection, you will need to go on some coursewalks - the more the better. This will help you a lot. Find someone experienced to walk with if you can. Often, there are Novice coursewalks.

Before the start of your session, there will be a driver's meeting. You must attend this meeting, as rules will be explained.

Next, you may need to put your car in grid (depending on the layout of the site). Grid is where people line up their cars before they autocross. Make sure your timing card is under your wiper and that you've remembered your helmet. If you don't have a helmet, you can borrow one in exchange for your driver's license. Make sure you return the helmet after each run, as a lot of folks need to borrow them. Children and pets are not allowed in grid under any circumstances. Children 16-18 may be in grid if they are driving in the event.

Now all those coursewalks you did will come in handy. When it's your turn, just drive at a speed that you are comfortable with. Looking ahead while you are driving will help you tremendously. You will get three or four runs, depending on the autocross. Your best time will be the one that counts. If you miss a gate, you will get a ten second penalty added to your time. Cones will cost you two seconds each.

After everyone in your session (morning or afternoon) has finished running, the results will be audited. When the audit is complete, there will be a trophy presentation. Even if you didn't win anything, show up and clap for everyone else.

After the conclusion of the day's event, there is usually a gathering at a local restaurant for food, beverage, and spirited discussion of the day's events.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When do I show up: morning or afternoon?

A: It depends on what class you will be running in. If you will be running in Novice or Novice Ladies, you can run during either session. If you are in any other class, the website will have information on when your class will be running.

Q: Do I need special race tires?

continued on page 8

Autocross answers revealed!

continued from page 7

A: No. If you would like to run on street tires, you can run in just about any class. The NW Region also has Street Tire and Street Tire Ladies classes. If you are a Novice, you must use street tires. Race tires are not allowed for Novices.

Q: What do I need to bring?

A: Handy things to bring: tarp (to protect the contents of your car from rain), non-alcoholic beverages, food (there isn't usually food at the site), umbrella/hat, sunscreen, camera, folding chairs, enthusiasm.

Q: What should I leave at home?

A: Stuff you've cleaned out of your car, children (17 and under), pets, alcohol, firearms, attitude.

Q: What if I have a question?

A: There is a contact person for every event, and their name/email will be on the website. If you are unable to get a hold of them, you can contact me at autocross1@pugetsoundmiataclub.org. At the event, ask anyone - autocrossers are a pretty friendly bunch!

Miatacross fundraiser set for Shelton

Date: September 27

Host: Deiter Beldi

Contact: Deiter.W.Beldi@boeing.com

One of the ways the Puget Sound Miata Club keeps costs down for club members is by having one major fundraiser per year. The past two years have seen a huge drop in income because no major fundraiser actually happened. This year, we're fortunate to have the major fundraiser back on the calendar—Miatacross.

The event is hosted by Deiter Beldi, a longtime autocrosser who also owns a Miata and has been a club member for several years. Deiter has several club members who provide a core staff of volunteer help for the day, but this big event draws a lot of racers and there are many jobs that need to be done. Deiter has reported that he has lined up volunteers from the autocross "family" but as usual, he would welcome any club members who wish to volunteer to help out on September 27.

Deiter reports that morning events begin with 7:30 a.m. start time and the afternoon events kick off at 11:30 a.m. Registration is required for both sessions and cost is \$25 per session if you pre-register and \$30 on the day of the event.

Either way, you will need to pay at the registration table on the day of the event. This event is one of the sanctioned WWSCC events. This year's Miatacross will happen at Sanderson Field, just outside of Shelton.

This is a popular event for those on the autocross circuit and it's also fun for novice Miata drivers who would like to test their skills in their cars. The course is designed for sharp curves and when you race, you are racing against the clock, not other drivers. Helmets (required for insurance purposes) are available at the event if you don't have one.

A pre-registration form will be linked at www.wwscc.org about two weeks prior to the event. You can find additional information about Miatacross on the WWSCC website. Also, check out the article that starts on page 7 called "What to expect at Miatacross" so you will know what to do when you attend as a racer or to get an idea of the types of jobs that will need to be filled.

Deiter asks anyone with questions about volunteering to contact him by email at Deiter.W.Beldi@boeing.com. If you have never participated in an autocross, a few events are still open for all comers. See the box below or check out the website for more information.

August Autocross

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

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 8 WWSCC BEAC Enduro XXXII | Sanderson Field |
| 8-9 SSSCC Events #7 & #8 | Tri-Cities Raceway |
| 9 BSCC Event #6 | Bremmerton Raceway |
| 15 NWR/SCCA Open Practice | Packwood |
| 16 NWR/SCCA Solo Event #7 | Packwood |
| 22 Oregon Rgn SCCA Intermediate School | Packwood |



Miata Top Bob's

Expert Miata Soft Top Replacement

Save \$600 or more on plastic window tops,

\$1,000 or more on glass window tops.

10% Off Shop Labor for PSMC current members when top when is purchased from Miata Top Bob's.

Call: H 360-765-0786 - C 206-782-8081

Email: bgunthers@aol.com

Summer around the cones

by Denise Williamson

It's summertime, and the autocrossing is good! On June 14, 178 drivers attended BSCC #4 in Bremerton. *Tom Slipp* placed second in Sports C in his '91 Miata with a time of 51.353. After a couple of dirty runs, *Dieter Beldi* cleaned it up to win Medium Sedan in his '07 Mazdaspeed 3 with a 50.175. He had so much fun that he stayed around for the afternoon runs. Good thing, too, because he got his time down to 48.588.

The following weekend was a doubleheader in Packwood. Saturday the 20th was SCCA ProSolo #2, with 89 entrants. After holding down the driveway for at least two years, *Glen Hernandez's* '88 Porsche 924S made a surprise appearance in the Stock 2 class. Glen placed second with a combined ES-indexed time of 45.217. *Dieter Beldi*, driving his '07 Mazdaspeed 3, placed third in Stock 3 with a combined DS-indexed time of 45.680. In the Open Challenge, Glen won in Round 1, but lost in Round 2. In the Bonus Challenge, Dieter won in Rounds 1, 2, 3, and 4. Dieter also won the third place runoff! However, kudos for this event go to Glen, who had the ninth top indexed time of the day on Course 2.

Sunday the 21st was SCCA #5. Out of 159 entrants, five were from PSMC. *Bob Bundy* won Street Mod in his '88 Mazda 323 GTX with a 55.736. In Street Mod 2, *Rickey Carlson* placed second with a 60.808 in his '90 Miata. *Dieter Beldi* won Stock 3 in his '07 Mazdaspeed3 with a DS-indexed time of 47.038. He also got to goof around in the afternoon in a '93 BMW 325is, and got a 57.118. In Open PAX, *Glen Hernandez* placed third with an ES-indexed time of 44.553. Kudos for this event go to Glen, who had the fourth top indexed time of the day.

One week later was Autopilot XXXIV, hosted by the Boeing Employees Autosports Club as part of the WWSCC Championship series. The 78 entrants had a lot of fun at the site in Shelton. In Open Street, *Alan Dahl* placed second in a '66 Corvair with a 54.235. Yes, you read that correctly: a '66 Corvair. If you want to get Alan to talk, all you have to do is say, "Corvair" to him. *Dieter Beldi* won the Stock D class in his '07 Mazdaspeed3 with a 49.694. He also drove an '09 Chevrolet Cobalt in the Time Only PM class. Between the Cobalt this weekend and the 325is last weekend, do I smell car wanderlust? In the Street Tire-Touring class, *Russ Hill* placed eighth in his '91 Miata with an STS-indexed time of 44.205. *Glen Hernandez* placed fourth in the PRO1 class in his '88 Porsche 924S with an ES-indexed time of 40.154. Glen also gets kudos for this event, because he got the ninth top unindexed time of the day.

Last but not least for this article is SCCA #6, held July 5 in Bremerton with 156 entrants. *Tim Irwin* won Non-Stock 1 in an '01 Porsche Boxster S with a BSP-indexed time of 40.685. Also winning his class was *Rich Blake*. Rich won Stock 2 in his '94 Miata with an ES-indexed time of 39.028. *Bob Bundy* placed second in Street Mod in his '88 Mazda 323 GTX with

a 48.960. He also ran his 323 in the afternoon Time Only class and improved on his morning time with a 48.657. In Street Mod 2, *Rickey Carlson* placed second with a 49.825 in his '90 Miata. *Dieter Beldi* won Stock 3 in an '09 Cobalt with a DS-indexed time of 39.337. I'll take this as an indication that he enjoyed the Cobalt when he drove it the previous week in Shelton. In Open PAX, *Glen Hernandez* placed eighth in his '88 Porsche 924S with an ES-indexed time of 39.683. Guess that hurking new front sway bar did not work as he'd hoped.

Corn Maze Tour set

October 10, 2009, 1 p.m.

Host: Charlotte Fellers

Contact: 253.333.7442

Have you still not caught corn maze fever? Do you like to buy your Halloween pumpkins from the growers rather than at the local grocery store? This is your chance to do all of that with your Miata friends.

The corn maze tour a year ago yielded some interesting results. While some got lost due to the somewhat sketchy directions, others just got stuck at all the left turns. A new route has been developed for this year's short drive (about an hour) so you can spend some extra time at our main destination—the excellent corn mazes at Carpinito Brothers in South King County.

The second weekend in October is the perfect time to take a fall tour of colors in the lowlands of South King County and then stop for a walk (not a drive!) through your choice of corn mazes. Yes, that's right--you have to walk through the corn mazes, not drive! Carpinito's has two mazes every year, one short and one longer. One ticket gets you into both or just one maze for about \$7 and while there, you also can purchase your harvest season pumpkins, squash, and late fall vegetables, including heads of cabbage the size of a basketball for \$1 a head (no kidding!).

The tour winds up at the host's home for an early dinner



and storytelling. This tour is still under construction, but mark your calendars and RSVP on the website so you can receive details via email when available.

Deployment ends for PSMC reporter

(Editor's Note: This is the final dispatch in a short series of dispatches posted directly to us from A.J. McGrathan of Lakewood, who was deployed in April to Afghanistan with his National Guard unit based near Ft. Lewis. Word was received by his wife Vickie, around July 16, that he was on his way home for good. Vickie related that AJ had an opportunity to return home earlier than originally assigned, and he took it. She is very happy and relieved. Please enjoy this last dispatch from AJ).

The report from the "rear area" here in Bagram and if you're a student of worldwide affairs the activity is picking up substantially in eastern and southern Afghanistan during the "spring/summer fighting season". For the most part because of the extreme whether in this country, the Taliban usually hibernate during the winter season by reinforcing/resupplying for the next push in the following season. I read somewhere that as of this date the incursions and American deaths have doubled since last year for the same time period.

The Stars and Stripes news publications reported that the U.S. Marine Corp has about a battalion strength element clearing a large swath of Taliban hot bed of activity in the southern portion of Afghanistan. However the Taliban probably has good access to our intelligence, and cleared out of the area prior to occupation. They're a crafty lot. A lot of the business is very similar to the Viet Cong activity during that conflict in the 70's in that when NATO/American forces take up residence in a given geographical area the Taliban stay clear; however once we leave a piece of real-estate, they move back into the area and threaten/intimidate to locals. I read in the S&S that the Taliban cut the head off of a local villager to leave a message to the surrounding village.

Our July 4th holiday was pretty low key. There were a few events taking place at the M.W.R. (Moral Welfare & Recreational) facilities. It was business as usual for our section.



If you are lucky enough to get shipped to Afghanistan's Bagram Airfield, this is the sign that greets you. Pictured is our own A.J. McGrathan, who is home now from his tour.

Photo courtesy of A.J. McGrathan

My wife e-mailed me wanting to know if we celebrated with any fireworks here. My response was if that we hear fireworks we'd be diving for cover and not looking around in awe....



Ever wonder about the living conditions in Afghanistan for our soldiers? Well, here are AJ's living quarters. (We'll bet he won't miss these small quarters when he gets home!)

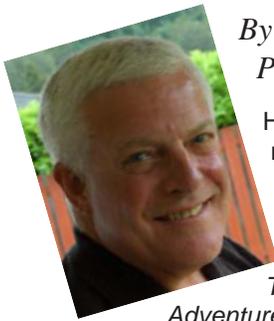
Photo courtesy of AJ McGrathan



This month's "photo of the month" is some type of Rube Goldberg "flailing device" If your into flailing, and are in the immediate need to clear 1000 acres of mine field, this machine will "rock your world"....

President's Message

By Tom Millar
PSMC President



Hot fun in the summertime! As summer reaches its zenith in July and we move towards August, we truly are in the middle of prime Miata season!

Cindy and I just completed *Cindy and Tom's Most Awesome National Park Adventure* and we are settling back into the daily routine of work, with spots of leisure. Cindy gets to kick back this summer as she is an educator while I have to hit the highways and byways spreading cheer and goodwill wherever I go. The national park adventure was certainly awesome as we got to see some fabulous beauties like Canyon Reef, Bryce Canyon, Zion National and, of course, the Grand Canyon. Yes, we did it in our 2001 SE BRG and the car performed magnificently, except for some tires that were frankly getting on in wear and which we had to replace in Sedona, AZ. I will submit a detailed article in the next Sounder, once we have had the opportunity to sort through our literally hundreds of pictures. Anyway, stand by.

During the month of July we experienced some great satisfiers in terms of club rides and other activities. These included the Historic Races, three fine parades, and a trip to Oregon, a railroad tour, a tour of Whidbey Island and an Eat and Greet. Wow, is this club active or what? I want to extend my personal thanks to all of those who provided the planning and work in hosting these events as well as those who participated.

Looking forward in the month of August, one of the events that I want to highlight is our annual Gathering. As is featured in the Gathering article, we are maintaining the bargain price at \$25 for the car, driver and passenger. We will have some great games to participate in as well as raffles and the Concours d'Elegance which will provide everyone the chance to show off their own Miata baby and compete for prizes as club officials determine the "best of the best". Our food selection will also be enhanced this year and should satisfy everyone's palate. Bill Cooper has once again graciously agreed to co-host the event and, once again, has agreed to hold the event on his lovely property. I also want to mention that Bill is looking for volunteers to assist him in setting up for the Gathering on the Friday before. So, if you have some time on Friday, August 7th, and can help Bill out, that would be outstanding. One other thing: as I look at our RSVP for the event I couldn't help but notice that we could stand some more participants. Please consider coming to the club's annual signature happening and invite your friends who have who may be interested. Finally, please make sure you RSVP on the website and submit your money to Charlotte Fellers. This helps us with the critical aspects of meal preparation as well as other logistics.

The month of August has nearly every weekend covered with club events. In addition to the Gathering, Mike Springer is hosting the LeMay Museum Open House while Bill Bell is hosting the Mount Baker Tour with the Sea To Sky Club. Bill Bell is also hosting yet another Eat & Greet while the Gores are tempting us with a wine tasting and judging at their beautiful home in Gig Harbor. I see from our website that we are also invited to attend the Car Tender

continued on page 12



OFFICERS/DIRECTORS WEB COMMITTEE

CHIEF OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

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

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Insurance Coordinator _____ Open Position
Data Coordinator _____ Open Position
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

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

August 2009

- 8 Annual PSMC Northwest Gathering, see page 1.
- 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.
- 10 Corn Maze Tour, hosted by Fellers, see p.
- 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

**"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 and Insurance Coordinator. To volunteer for one of these jobs, contact President Tom Millar at 206-390-3469.

December 2009

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

January 2010

- 23 **PSMC 20th Anniversary Celebration, place TBA**

President's Message

continued from page 11

Challenge Sports Car Races in Kent where will have our very own Miata corral. All in all, August is destined to be a fun month for the Miatalites. Remember, for those of you hosting the events, please provide Charlotte Fellers, our own masterful Sounder Editor, with post event articles and pictures.

Did I mention before that we need additional volunteers and new board members going forward into our future? You'll soon learn that this will be a recurring mantra of mine as we seek out new talent and solicit fresh ideas for our continuing legacy. Honest, it doesn't take all that much time and the rewards are self-fulfilling as you get to play a vital role in shaping the future of our club. I would ask each of you to consider making a contribution of your time and talent.

I bid you all a farewell for now. I look forward to seeing you out there at the Gathering and our other great events during the month of August.

Now....Drop your tops and hit the blacktops!

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