

Miata Sounder



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

Upcoming Events

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 26

The Annual Leavenworth Autumnfest Parade, in Leavenworth. Check website for details.

September 27

M i a t a c r o s s Fundraiser, coverage starts on p. 7.

October 3-4

Olympic Peninsula Tour, hosted by Millars, see p. 3 for details.

October 10

Corn Maze Tour, hosted by Fellers, see page 4 for details.

Miatacross!

Date: September 27

Host: Deiter Beldi

Contact:

Deiter.W.Beldi@boeing.com

Information:

autocross2@pugetsoundmiataclub.org

by Denise Williamson

After a two-year hiatus, the PSMC is making final preparations for the popular Miatacross, the major fundraising event for the club.

Miatacross has found a new home at Sanderson Field near Shelton. The address is 21 West Sanderson Way, Shelton, WA 98584. This venue provides some excellent open space to set up the courses and lots of parking and registration room as well.

Morning events begin with a 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 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.wwsc.org about two weeks prior to the event. You can find additional information about Miatacross on the WWSCC website.

Autocross volunteers are needed for many non-technical jobs, but be aware that if you race, you may be called on to help out too.

You won't need any experience to help out, so that means everyone can participate in one way or another. How can you help? I'm so glad you asked! I'll list the positions a bit later, but will first fill you in on the details of our Big Day.

It's okay if you don't wish to autocross, but we'd sure like to see you! If you would like to autocross, we will have two classes just for PSMC members in the afternoon: "PSMC Stock" and "PSMC Modified". That means that you will be competing against PSMC members only. However, you will not be able to receive WWSCC points for this class (might be important if you're in the running for WWSCC year-end points).

The positions we need help with are listed below. Remember, these positions are easy, and no experience is required:

Course setup, Saturday, September 26: 2-3 people. Duties: Saturday (late afternoon), set up the course and mark crayon boxes around cones. Approximately two hours. If interested, please contact the Chief of Course, Dieter Beldi: autocross2@pugetsoundmiataclub.org

Registration: We'll need a couple of folks for a one-hour job in the morning session (7:15-8:30), and a few for another hour for the afternoon session (11:15-12:30). Duties: take money, check driver's licenses, hand out timing cards and coursemaps.. If interested, please contact the Chief of Registration, Mindy Bohnas: fun4sun@wavecable.com

continued on page 8

upcoming events

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. While there, 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 you wore in the '60's (or what your parents wore)". Bring along CD's of your favorite dance music for the dance party.

One sightseeing highlight is the Cape Disappointment Lighthouse, built in 1856. Now managed by the U.S. Coast Guard, it is within the Cape Disappointment State Park and part of the Lewis & Clark National and State Historic Park. There's a Lewis & Clark Visitor Center there as well, if you are interested in artifacts and information about the explorers' historic journey.

You can visit the Long Beach Visitor Information site at www.funbeach.com if you aren't convinced this is the best tour ever!

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.



The Cape Disappointment Lighthouse, completed in 1856, is one of more than 700 lighthouses on the Pacific Coast. Visit and check out the artifacts and the view!

(Photo courtesy of Cape Disappointment State Park website)

Don't forget this fun parade and food combo

Hosted by: Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson

Phone: 253-845-2424

E-mail: toadhallwa@yahoo.com

Launches at: 9:15, Olympia

We will again make our scenic late summer road run to South Bend, Washington, on Willapa Bay, driving through some of the best sports car roads in the state. On arrival we will then drive in South Bend's "Come And Play On Labor Day" parade.

NOTE: This is no longer a joint run with Corvettes de Olympia. The Corvettes dropped out of the road run to go to a Tacoma Rainiers baseball game the same day.

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

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 (day of event only, zero bars at our house.). Please RSVP by signing up on the website link.

(Editor's Note: All Miata 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. This is a great chance to hang out on a holiday weekend and eat some truly delicious food, Umemoto-style!)

upcoming events

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.

This tour will fill up soon so if you plan to go, sign up now. Rooms at the hotel on Pacific Beach are limited. 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.

Beginning at 7 Cedar's Casino in Sequim with lunch on or before 11:30 a.m., departure points also are scheduled for 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 the host.

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 hotel and conference center 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. 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. The Navy also has a web site at: <http://www.navylifepnw.com/site/68/Pacific-Beach.aspx>. We'll continue our evening in a party room onsite following dinner.

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.

Corn Maze Tour II set for Oct. 10

Host: Charlotte Fellers

Date: October 10, 1 p.m.

Contact: 253.333.7442

Here's a chance to have some fun in your Miata (possibly with the top down!) and get a jump start on your fall pumpkin carving.

The 2009 version of the Corn Maze Tour will feature a new route, a new corn maze venue, and an additional surprise element that you will learn about when you get your driving directions. And prizes for the winners!

This year's tour leaves from the parking lot across the street from The Old Cannery Furniture Warehouse in Sumner. The address is 13608 A Valley Ave. E., Sumner, 98390 (directions are at the end of this article). This is a furniture store that also has restrooms, a small snack bar, and homemade fudge. A drive-thru coffee stand shares their parking lot so you can get fully fortified before starting the drive.

We'll meet for a driver's meeting at 1:00 and be on the road by 1:15. The drive from here will culminate in a social at the host's home in Auburn. The total drive will take around 90 minutes and will give you a glimpse of the beautiful small farming areas in North Pierce and South King Counties.

This year, we will be stopping at the Thomasson Farms corn maze. The maze this year will be based on a *Wizard of Oz* theme with a *Yellow Brick Road* to guide you to a series of

numbered posts with questions to answer at each post. The minimum time to complete the maze is about 30 minutes. For the maze-challenged, it could take more than an hour. This maze is hand cut and sounds like it will be a fun maze to complete.

Thomasson Farms also has pumpkins for sale and free hayrides around their 40-acre dairy farm. You can buy fresh fall harvest foods at their small fresh food stand and they also have concessions available.

The second weekend in October is the perfect time to take a fall tour of the farming communities in North Pierce and South King Counties. Colors are changing and the maze should be in great shape this early in the month. Cost for the corn maze is \$6 per person.

With help from some other members, the social will feature a light dinner of beef stew, salad, fresh homemade biscuits and corn muffins, and dessert. Please contact the host with a phone call or RSVP on the website.

Driving directions to The Cannery: From Seattle: Go south on I-5 freeway, toward Tacoma. Take Fife exit 137 (Fife, Milton). Exit brings you to 54th Avenue East. Turn left and go over the freeway. Go through stoplight at 20th Street East. Road will make a sharp turn to the left and becomes Valley Avenue. From this curve go approximately six miles (stay on Valley Avenue). The Cannery is on the right side just

continued on page 5

Oregon trip provides interesting mix of adventures

by Duncan Johnson and Dee Dalkhe

When we signed up for Willamette Valley Miata Club's "Discover Oregon 2009" meet we got this wild idea that we could get there (Sisters, Oregon, about a 300 mile run) without driving on any freeways and when we started laying out the trip we decided to stretch it to two days so we could explore more roads and roadside attractions while enjoying Sports Motoring. We were joined by three other Miatas (Bob & Marti Mott, Fred & Bev Rudd, and Ron & Ingrid Harper) and went from the Puget Sound area down the east side of I-5, crossed under the freeway at Centralia, then down the west side to Longview.

Right here we shall all pause and shed a tear for our beloved twisting Skookumchuck Road, which is a bypass east and south of Tenino; forces of evil are widening and straightening a major section of it, a perfect example of Stimulus Funds falling into the wrong hands. Oh, harrumph. Our little pack crossed the Columbia River at Longview, had a short fast hillclimb up the challenging Cornelius Pass Road, and enjoyed a late lunch at McMenamins' Cornelius Pass Roadhouse in Hillsboro, featuring more atmosphere than air.

Now mark your maps: we went west on SR 10 through Farmington, then zoomed south on the excellently curving SR 219 through the hills to Newberg. A short dash west brought us to the farm village of Carlton, now known for artsy stores, wine tasting, and junque shoppes. Fortunately our Miata's luggage space precluded any truly absurd purchases. The day ended at McMinnville with dinner at the Golden Valley Brewery, which we also recommended to a group of tourists from The Netherlands, and they did seem to be enjoying themselves boisterously there.

The second morning we got a jump start at Dutch Brothers Coffee, a recommendation from Fred & Bev. A further recommendation comes from Duncan: if you're holding your

wife's latte and you meet an oncoming Miata and you decide to wave, don't wave by sticking the cup of coffee up into the slipstream. At least not if you're going for Best Interior at any coming car shows. This day's route went east past the Woodburn Drag Strip (where we did fun autocross racing in years gone by,) and then through Mount Angel, home of Oktoberfest held in September. Go figure. A slight course deviation got us a photo opp and a kiss at the century-old Gallon House Covered Bridge, named for an establishment where you could buy moonshine by the gallon during Prohibition.

After a quick peek at The Oregon Garden, lunch was at a



Dee Dalkhe poses in the background with Road Dancer, 1999 Silver, in the swinging ghost town of Dee, Oregon, "somewhere in the boonies."

Photo by Duncan Johnson

Corn Maze Tour directions

continued from page 4

before the copper bridge. Please use the overflow parking lot on the left.

From the South: Take I-5 North toward Seattle. Take Fife exit #137, to 54th Ave South. Go straight through light (cross street is 20th St. East). Road makes a sharp turn to left and turns into Valley Ave.

Stay on Valley Avenue for approximately 6 miles. The Cannery is on the right side of the road just before the copper bridge. Please use the overflow parking lot on the left.

From Hwy 167, north or south: Take 167 North or South, exit to Hwy 410 toward Sumner/Yakima. Take the first Sumner exit (East Main Exit) toward Traffic Avenue. Turn left onto E. Main Ave. which becomes Traffic Ave. Turn left onto Pacific Ave. and watch for the Cannery on the left. Please use the parking lot on the right.

tasty little hole-in-the-wall called O'Brien's in Silverton, sitting out on a deck overhanging the local river. Don't drop your car keys. Then we picked up SR 22 and US 20, up-up-up into the mountains, over Santiam Pass (4817 feet) and into Sisters, which has preserved its main street in an 1880s Old West atmosphere. Tie up at the Ponderosa Inn and you know it's the right place because there are about 65 Miatas in the parking lot, sporting license plates from as far away as Alberta. The "Discover Oregon" meet is young, but it is growing steadily with The Right Stuff. There was a huge mix-n-mingle activity from afternoon into evening where we got our goodie bags, event schedules, assorted beverages, and a table of heavy munchies that obviated any need to go out and find dinner.

Saturday's activities featured your choice of two extensive local road trips (morning or afternoon) and the host club split each into two groups with staggered start times to avoid a

continued on page 6

Exploring Oregon provides a big adventure

continued from page 5

massive traffic jam. The morning mass launch actually worked a LOT better than we expected, and we were soon underway on the Prineville Reservoir Run. Good start, but then we found the route overlapped a charity bicycle run that was happening the same day, with thousands of bicycles on the road, every bike rider who wasn't at the Tour de France. Rude buggers, three and four abreast, not wanting to share the road and yelling a lot. Just treat them like a bunch of mobile autocross cones. Past the bikes, the route went to Lower Bridge, Terrebone, O'Neil, and Prineville, lovely country motoring all of it.

We had been advised there would be a rest stop at a porta-potty about 47 miles into the run. Well, in Prineville we saw a McDonald's, which would be much a more luxurious stop, and since we all had detailed route instructions, we just pulled in and motioned all the other cars by, figuring we could catch up later. This proved to be about as successful as Kasey Kahne stopping at McDonald's while leading a NASCAR race and figuring he could catch up, too. So we got back on the road and the next instruction was "Turn left (south) onto North Main St." We did it, and were joined by three Canadian Miatas coming the other way. Did the route double back on itself or what? When the road didn't turn into South Main Street as it was supposed to, we all stopped to regroup. The Canadians pondered their GPS, which was spinning in circles. We dug out an atlas of Oregon, looked up some towns (like Alfalfa) mentioned further ahead in the instructions, and decided there was an error in the instruction (Oooops, who didn't pre-run the route?) and we should turn around and go southbound.

This gave us the opportunity for accelerated Sports Motoring as we zoom-zoomed along Crooked River Road (SR 27 out of Prineville, mark your map again.) Whee! Sure enough, at the reservoir boat launch there were plenty of Miatas, and the people were still lined up at the Lone Sani-Can. Nice recovery, as we say in rallying. Except one of the Canadian cars had hit a jagged rock and slashed a tire. It was a 3rd-gen MX-5 with no spare, just a can of sticky glop and a compressor, and the hole in the sidewall was too big for that. Oh yeah: no cell phone coverage where we were. This would

be the dreaded Worst Case Scenario, except the victims were surrounded by Miata buddies, and we were only 18 miles down the road from Prineville, which is the world headquarters of the vast empire of Les Schwab Tires.

With the tire situation under control the rest of us motored to Bend and Sisters, except along the way the tour stopped at the roadside and there was no room left for us (now at the tail end) to stop so we just cruised by and were now we were in the lead! So far in the lead that everyone else didn't get to see the four rice-rocket motorcycles blast past us and the generic Dodge sedan that was behind us. Well, a generic Dodge gets really colorful when about a zillion hidden red and blue lights come on in the grille, the mirrors, and the windshield! We got out of the nice officer's way and Justice Was Done a few blocks down the road.

We were going to take the afternoon run to Cove Palisades, but by the time we finished lunch they were heading out and we had no chance to catch them. There was a rod-n-kustom car show in town, but the 95 degree sunshine made that less than attractive, so we instead opted for one of WVMC's do-it-yourself exploration tours that were available to anyone who wanted to get away from the crowd. More (ahem) obscure and challenging driving directions took us through the mountain forests to the rustic Camp Sherman and the woody headwaters of the Metolius River, a dream come true for any stream fisherman, although maybe those were not the club's intended destinations? We did have fun finding them. Back in town that night we all wrapped up with a massive dinner party at Bronco Billy's saloon, door prizes and poker run prizes and raffle prizes galore and the rollicking get-together that all combine to make these events The Place To Be.

Sunday morning we headed out, passing a lineup of vintage Model-A Fords looking Historically Correct parked on the vintage main street, and then our route took in part of the Cove Palisades run as we headed northwest past Mount Hood. Here we got into another navigational challenge as Dee decided to visit the ghost town of Dee, Oregon (well, of course!) and the only detailed area map we had was a stylized brochure of the Hood River Fruit Loop (that's really its name, it is a tour of farm stands). So believing "there are no wrong roads in a Miata" we finessed our way through more excellent two-lane blacktop and sure enough there was an abandoned lumber mill with a railroad station sign saying "Dee."

We also took in the Western Antique Aeroplane & Automobile Museum (<http://www.waaamuseum.org>) which offers a snapshot into general aviation's great era between about 1915 and 1950. All their displays are flyable or drivable and they exercise them regularly; our kind of place. After a stay in Hood River with the wind surfers we crossed to the Washington side of the Columbia River, visited PSMC members Ron & Laurie Doering in Battle Ground, snaked our way home, and report 29.5 mpg gas mileage for the 900+ miles. That's fairly amazing as "Road Dancer" was wound up above 4000 rpm for many miles to stay in the power band. Next year "Explore Oregon" will be at Astoria, and we foresee more of this laid-back cruising to get there. Sign up now at <http://www.oregonmx5.com>.

**THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS
FOR THE GATHERING:**

mmmiata.com

miata parts and accessories



Gathering offers great fun for all!

by Charlotte Fellers

The 2009 version of the Great Northwest Gathering opened on a nice, sunny day, but not too warm.

More than 60 people attended to meet up with old friends, have lunch and enjoy some fun car games. This year saw the resurrection of the trunk stuffing game, which had not made an appearance at the Gathering for several years. Winner of this event was Bryn Zeman, followed by Alan Dahl running a close second, and Brad Gibbs capturing third place.

The other car game was an obstacle course that featured shooting plastic ducks with a suction cup gun, a ball toss, a torpedo toss and a bowling game. The obstacle course was very entertaining to watch and even more fun to try. Winners were: first, Carol Kuz, second, Charlotte Fellers, and third, Mindy Bohnas.

Now on to the Councours d'Elegance, the annual chance to show off the best of the best-kept cars (they are more like pets than cars, if you ask me). In the Stock Division, winners

were Todd Witzel and Bryn Zeman; with John Parker in second place and Frank Shriver taking third place honors.

In the Modified Division, Bob and Marti Mott had a perfect score to capture first place, with Rod Gibbs in second and Joe Stanley taking the third place trophy. The judges this year were Allen Ohlsen, Bill Cooper and Mike Springer (incidentally, all of these judges are past PSMC presidents).

The ever-popular People's Choice award was captured by Brad and Pam Gibbs. The other great event of the day, besides lunch, were the door prizes. A wide array of gifts donated by Renton Mazda, MMMiata, and Coop's Miata, highlighted the giveaways. Former board member Bill Bell donated a special prize that was raffled to help raise money for the club.

Photos by Mindy Bohnas



Keith Newsom tries his hand at lawn bowling during the Gathering Games. Unfortunately, Keith was not a winner, but he had a good time just the same.



Marti & Bob Mott, left, won the Councours'd Elegance in the Modified Division. They got a perfect score for their "perfectly maintained" car! Right, Stock Division honors went to Todd Witzel and Bryn Zeman-Witzel.



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

towninn.com.



At the Gathering, one of the most exciting aspects is the door prize giveaways. This group had a lot of trading going on to get the prizes they wanted!

Details for volunteering at Miatacross

continued from page 1

Worker Assignment: We'll need two people for the morning session (~7:15-8:30), and two for the afternoon session (11:15-12:30). Duties: one person will assign work assignments to each participant, the other will write them down. Approximately one hour per session. If interested, please contact the Chief of Workers, Sean McGriff: psmhome@comcast.net

Helmet Wrangler: One person per run group x 4 run groups = 4 people. Duties: Collect driver's licenses in exchange for loaner helmets. If interested, please contact the Chief of Workers, Sean McGriff: psmhome@comcast.net

Waiver Patrol: Many people needed throughout the day, with early morning being the most important. Shifts are one to two hours. Duties: At the entrance to the site, have everyone who enters the site sign our insurance waiver, and hand out wristbands (which signify that they've signed the waiver). Time slots: 7:00-8:00 (two people), 8:00-beginning of event (two people), end of AM Group 2 – 12:00 (two people), 12:00-beginning of PM Run Group 1 (two people). If interested, please contact the Chief of Workers, Sean McGriff: psmhome@comcast.net

Teardown: 3-5 people. Duties: For about an hour after the event, stack cones, reload BEAC van, etc. If interested, please contact Dieter Beldi: autocross2@pugetsoundmiataclub.org

Please let the Chiefs know what you would like to help with (maybe more than one?), and let them know if you'll be driving in the event (and which class). PSMC Club Classes will run only in the afternoon session. First come, first served, so if something looks interesting, email soon.

It is very important that the club pitch in at our event, so please email the appropriate Chief with your desired work position. Help make our event a success!

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

5-6	SCCA ProSolo Finale	Lincoln, NE
7	BSCC Event #7	Bremmerton Raceway
8-11	SCCA Nat'l Championship	Lincoln, NE
19	Oregon Region SCCA Event #8	Packwood
19-20	SSSCC Event #9 & 10	Tri-Cities Raceway
20	Oregon Rgn SCCA Event #9	Packwood
26	WWSCC Sports Car Spectacular	Sanderson Field
27	WWSCC PSMC Miatacross '09	Sanderson Field

Hernandez wins Kumho Super Challenge

by Denise Williamson

It was quite a weekend in Canada! The Kumho Super Challenge was held on August 1-2 at the BC Driving Centre in Pitt Meadows, BC. After Day 1, Glen drove his Porsche 924S to lead his class (Stock), and was paxed 3rd or 4th overall out of 89. With the HUGE and much appreciated help of Don N., out came the hurking new swaybar and in went the old.

On Day 2, Glen won the Stock class by 1.602 and outpaced everyone (ahead of 2nd place by .146). Then came the Shootout. The fastest 30 drivers in the event had to take another run, and it had to be clean. If you got lost or hit a cone, you were out. Glen won Round 1 by .601. The fastest 20 drivers from Round 1 moved on to Round 2 and took another run. Glen won Round 2 by .366.

The fastest 10 drivers from Round 2 moved on to Round 3 and took another run. Glen took second place, .01 behind first place. The fastest five drivers from Round 3 moved on to Round 4. Whomever won Round 4 would be declared the winner of the Super Challenge. Glen won Round 4 by .164. Can you say, "Free set of Kumhos"? Yeah, baby! The weekend was topped off by a nice banquet, which included a presentation by Frank from Kumho and lots of delicious food.



Frank of Kumho awards Glen Hernandez, right, with the grand prize.

Photo by Denise Williamson

PSMC members burn up the autocross track

by Denise Williamson

BSCC #5 was held in Bremerton on July 19, attracting 144 entrants who got five runs each. In Sports C, *Tom Slipp* placed third in his '91 Miata with a 55.423. *Glen Hernandez* experimented with a new swaybar in Time Only in his '88 Porsche 924S, with a time of 52.314.

The next BSCC event was held on August 9. The 130 entrants got five runs each. *Tom Slipp* won a second place trophy in Sports C in his '91 Miata with a 55.274. In Medium Sedan, *Dieter Beldi* placed first in an '09 Chevy Cobalt with a 52.058.

The much-anticipated SCCA Packwood National Tour was held July 11-12. Out of 227 drivers from all over the US and Canada, four were PSMC members. *Alan Dahl* won A Stock in his '07 Pontiac Solstice GXP with a two-day combined total of 101.351. In D Stock, *Dieter Beldi* placed 10th in an '09 Chevy Cobalt with a total of 109.189. In E Stock, *Glen Hernandez* placed second in his '88 Porsche 924S (and the original swaybar) with a 101.617. *Rich Blake* placed fifth in his '94 Miata with a 104.355. Except for a pesky cone on his last run, he would have been further up in the standings. Kudos for this event go to Glen, who had the fourth fastest indexed time on Sunday, and seventh overall.

The next weekend was the SCCA Packwood ProSolo. *Dieter Beldi* placed fourth in D Stock in an '09 Chevy Cobalt with a two-day combined total of 56.125. In A Stock, *Alan Dahl* won a second place trophy in his '07 Pontiac Solstice GXP

with a total of 53.827. Both Dieter and Alan qualified for the first round of the Super Challenge, but were unable to advance from there.

There are more autocrosses yet to come in 2009, including the 2009 Miatacross event September 27 in Shelton. This one provides an excellent chance to test your car on a track with lots of safety controls, so come out and join us!



Miata members have won countless competitions this summer, with the most recent being at two events locally and the third at the National SCCA Tour where all three competed. Pictured: top, Alan Dahl; left, Glen Hernandez; and below, Dieter Beldi.

Photos by Denise Williamson



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

**THANKS TO OUR FEATURE SPONSOR
 FOR THE GATHERING**



One last thing...

(Editor's Note: I have had a lot of positive feedback from Sounder readers about A.J. McGranahan's dispatches from Afghanistan. He is home now and made his "return" debut at the PSMC Gathering in August. Perhaps you saw him there and had a chance to visit with him. A.J. reports that he is spending time at Madigan Hospital for evaluation to see if he is able to continue in the Guard or muster out and find something else to do. He has explored several job opportunities in Lakewood, but has not begun work yet. Here is a note from past president Bonnie Lohkamp that she wanted to share with our members).

Folks,

Today we have among us one of our members who has just returned from a lifetime experience...Afghanistan....AJ was deployed in February and has just recently returned back home. It was his own idea to volunteer to go to defend our country as he wanted to see if all the training he has been receiving for the last 30 years in the military could really be put to work.

You all know that AJ is not some young 18 year old. This is a man only a few years away from early Social Security age which is an unbelievable feat in my eyes. Most of you have probably read his articles that he sent to the Sounder to be published and have gotten a real up close look at what life is really like over there. Let's give this very brave man in my eyes a great welcome back, and, oh yes AJ try to remember that a Miata handles the curves a lot better than those big tanks over there.....Keep on zooming and God bless you and your family.



More photos from the Whidbey Island Tour were submitted by Tom Smith after the August Sounder was published. Above, a very big piece of armament is housed permanently at Camp Casey, the site of a 30-minute rest stop to explore the park a bit. In the distant parking lot, you can see the long line of Miatas that made this tour. Left, tour co-host Frank Shriver reviews the "special rules of the road" that apply on Whidbey Island; and below, at the entrance to the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Tom snapped a photo of the line of more than 20 Miata drivers making their way through the many twisty roads on Whidbey Island.



President's Message



By Tom Millar
PSMC President

In her usual timely fashion, Charlotte has put out the deadline call for the September Sounder and I am scrambling to provide a viable contribution to this month's issue.

It is also the eve of the Mount Baker ride which I have agreed to take over as host.

Although I am really looking forward to this ride, I feel slightly unprepared for the event. I am

confident however that we will all have great fun, even though all the "i's" have not been dotted nor have the "t's" been crossed.

How about that July? I returned home from L.A. on the hottest day at 8:30 p.m., with the temperature being 100 degrees. What's with that? I almost took the shuttle back to the airport to fly anywhere that was cool! It reminded me of our time in Scottsdale, AZ when the temperature in the summer regularly reached 115-120 degrees during the day. Not too many tops down in that stuff! Forget "dry heat", that's just plain hot!

This past weekend we co-hosted, along with Bill Cooper, our annual summer event, The Gathering. We had sixty-two participants with some 32 Miatas. A good time was had by all and, by all accounts, the food was a bigger hit this year with the London broil and the chicken as the main entrees. I invite you to read the write up about The Gathering in the Sounder, but I want to take this opportunity to thank a variety of folks who gave selflessly to make this event a success. Once again, Bill Cooper and Karen Perry provided the premier venue and also some great logistical support. Charlotte Fellers (the chief caterer), assisted by her man-servant (that be me) and her mom, Vera, served up a great lunch. Mindy Bohnas, my ever-vigilant assistant, took charge of the games and other logistical elements. We had Sean McGriff keep the books, take & dispense money, and help out in a variety of ways. Bob and Marti Mott helped out on the day prior to the event as well as manning the registration desk at the entrance. Helping with the prior day setup and also during the actual event were Frank Shriver and Carol Kus. Others who assisted with the event include Keith & Gayle Newsom, Mike Springer, Joe Beretti, Alan Ohlsen, Bryn Zeman-Witzel, Tom Smith and Chris Stollery. To all of these generous folks I want to offer a resounding *bravo zulu* (Coast Guard talk for a job well done!). Allow me to reiterate that these things don't happen on their own and I dearly thank all those who had a hand in making The Gathering a success! We also enjoyed the generosity of several sponsors who provided prizes who I want to recognize as follows:

- Bill Aycok for providing several neat raffle items from the Mazda Miata factory in Hiroshima, Japan; MMMiata for providing a 2nd day air shipped box of goodies for the raffle; Renton Mazda for providing several raffle items including free oil changes; Bill Bell for providing prizes, including an auctioned item that was purchased by Tom Smith; my lovely bride, Cindy, for donating her time and talent with five custom-made tee shirts; Bob & Marti Mott's friends who ran an unusual custom tee shirt concession and who donated one of the raffle prizes.

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

September 2009

- 6 Road run to South Bend; South Bend Parade, hosted by Johnson/Dalkhe, see p. 3.
- 18-20 '50's Beach Party @ Long Beach, hosted by Mike/Lilly Springer & Allen/Cheryl Ohlsen, see p. 3.
- 26 Leavenworth AutumnFest Parade
- 27 Miatacross, Shelton, Sanderson Field, see p. 1.

October 2009

- 3-4 Olympic Peninsula Tour, hosted by Tom/Cindy Millar, see page 4.
- 10 Corn Maze Tour, hosted by Fellers, see p. 4.
- 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

- 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

Finally, I want to extend a sincere thanks to all those who attended and participated in the event, without which there wouldn't be an event.

As we move forward into the second half of this year, our focus needs to be on three significant items, (1) generating additional revenue streams, (2) adding new members and (3) promoting new and creative ways to stimulate participation. We have a long legacy of strong participation and memorable activities. In addition, we have a history of attracting talented people who have stepped up to the challenge, and worked tirelessly in making this not only the oldest Miata club, but clearly a *best in class* club.

With this in mind, I now invite those of you who have not yet offered your many talents to step forward with your ideas and willingness to make stuff happen. Let's make it our goal to achieve new heights in fun & memorable events and become the best Miata club in America.

Now, drop your tops and hit the black tops!

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

--Dr. Seuss--

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

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