

Miata Sounder



THE FIRST OFFICIAL UNITED STATES MIATA CLUB

September/October 2013

President's Message

By Bill Bell



Hello Fellow Members;

I want to thank everyone for being a member of the Oldest Miata club in the U.S.A. It is an honor to be your new President for the next year. I want to thank Charlotte Fellers for being President the last two years. She has done an outstanding job, and she is providing me with immeasurable information about PSMC. Thank You Charlotte!

I would like to introduce the new board members for 2013-2014:

Executive Officer (Past President): Charlotte Fellers
Communications Officer: Pam McGriff
Financial Officer: Sean McGriff
Membership: Mindy Bohnas & Nancy Paquin (in training)
Insurance: Sean McGriff
Members at Large: Tom Mackey, Frank Shriver, Mike Springer, Tom Millar, Vickie Olson, and Ross Scott
Newsletter Editor: Ken Shotwell

Having been on the board for a few years, I wanted to help the club out in various areas. Those include working with the Board on updating the Constitution/ByLaws, Website, and Sounder.

We've made much progress with the Constitution/ByLaws, and will have them ready to be voted on in 2014. The biggest two areas are the changes to elected club officer terms of service, to begin in January instead of June, and to exchange the Executive Officer position for a Vice-President position on the

Board.

Sean McGriff has been investigating options for a new website for the club. PSMC has not upgraded the site for some years. At our last board meeting, Sean gave us a demonstration of a new "beta-test" website. The changes we are looking at include being able to pay our yearly dues online, and to more easily manage club activities, such as event enrollments. Our goal is to launch the new PSMC Website in 2014.

Ken Shotwell has volunteered to become our new Sounder editor, taking over from Tom Mackey. Ken is retired, having most recently taught computer literacy in rural New Mexico. I want to thank Ken for stepping up, and to give three cheers to Tom, for doing a wonderful job as the past Sounder editor!

Bill Bell
PSMC President
August, 2013

Under The Hood...

OLYMPIC PENINSULA "LITE"	2
MIATA SOUNDER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES	2
LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS	3-4
FROM MIATA MAGAZINE, WINTER 1996	4
APPLE CIDER RUN	5
"MIATAS DO THE CORN MAZE.."	5
END OF YEAR PARTY	5
"EXPLORE OREGON"	6-8
MIATAS AT THE GAP XVII (NORTH CAROLINA)	9-10
"THE GATHERING" OF 2013	11
WHIDBEY ISLAND RUN	12
BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS	13



Legal Stuff

STAFF

Editor	Ken Shotwell
Distribution	Mindy Bohnas
Mailing List	Mindy Bohnas
Photography	Contributed

FEATURE WRITERS

Club Events	Event Masters
Event Reportage	Contributors
Autocross	Dieter Beldi
Coop's Garage	Bill Cooper

The *MIATA SOUNDER* is published 9 times a year (as close to the first of the month as possible). Nov/Dec, Jan/Feb, & Mar/Apr are combined. The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month, for publication in the following issue.



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 and any questions related to newsletter content to:

Miata Sounder

editorsmc@gmail.com

The Chapter assumes no liability for any information contained herein; or injury or damage resulting from the use of this information. The ideas, opinions, maintenance or modification tips expressed are to be used at the reader's discretion. Individual contributors and/or the editors express no approval, authentication or endorsement.

Olympic Peninsula (Lite)

New Dates Since Last Issue!

Saturday & Sunday, September 7th & 8th, 2013

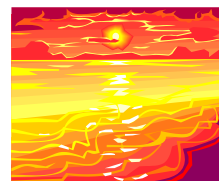
Host: Tom Millar (Home: 425-337-0306)

For those who remember the original Olympic Peninsula Tour, you remember the beautiful, picturesque, and long, drive that we used to take around the Olympic Peninsula to Pacific Beach. However, on Saturday, September 6th, we will embark on a wonderful road tour that will lead us from Shelton, through the backwoods of Mason and Grays Harbor counties to our final destination of Pacific Beach. The plan is to meet mid-morning and take a leisurely, but direct ride to our destination. Once at Pacific Beach you will have the opportunity to participate in the annual Pacific Beach Kite Festival! This wonderful event features a kaleidoscope of color and kite design which is a sight to behold. You can even purchase your own kite at the kite shop in Pacific Beach and participate in the fun! After a day on the beach and all the joy that includes typically pristine September weather, we will sit back, sip some wines and slip into some easy times. Following dinner which is on your own at the Navy restaurant, we will assemble at one of the houses we have rented for some after-action reports on our experiences. Our ride will begin at the Little Creek Casino in Shelton with a short drivers meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. Lodging will be at the Pacific Beach Resort & Conference Center. *(Update: according to the resort all rooms have been reserved at their location.*

For other lodging suggestions please call the host at the phone number provided above.)

Their website is: http://www.navylifepnw.com/Portals/Rainbow/images/Regional/PacBeach/PacBeach_Brochure.pdf.

The rooms go for between \$55-\$75 per night (no tax). You will need to reserve and pay for your room using either a Visa or MasterCard. Your card will be charged at the time of booking, but you have until two prior to the event to cancel if you need to with no charge. The direct phone number for Pacific Beach Resort & Conference Center is: (360)276-4414. When you call, you need to reference the Puget Sound Miata club. The early bird gets the worm on this one...book early! By the way, on Sunday we will max our check out time and maybe catch a winery on the way back to civilization.



Submitting Articles to the Miata Sounder

If you would like to contribute an article or you took photos of an event you'd like to share, remember these guidelines:

- Send 3-5 of your best photos, not 20-30.
- Send us your unedited j-pegs since we need to crop or resize them anyway. Photo credit and captions will be included in your article if you provide them. Space considerations may limit the number of images actually used.
- Send all written materials in Arial or Times New Roman fonts, and as Microsoft Word or WordPad attachments.. *We cannot*

use WordPerfect files

- The deadline is the 20th of the month, for publication the following month.
- Our editorial process does not include verifying routes, directions, prices, addresses, times, or dates. Please ensure any vital information you submit has been checked for accuracy before you send it to us.
- Corrections, inquiries and contributions should be emailed to editorsmc@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events — Something for Everyone!

(Check www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org for current updates)

Summer is almost over and fall is set to begin soon. Football season is starting soon and our weather will be changing to being cooler. We have many drives left on our 2013 schedule with an End of Year Party in November.

Olympic Peninsula (Lite), September 7-8th, Hosted by: Tom Millar

On Saturday, September 7th, the drive will embark on a wonderful road tour that will begin from Shelton, through Mason and Grays Harbor counties, and finally Pacific Beach. The annual Pacific Beach Kite Festival will features a kaleidoscope of color and kite designs. After that, you can have some wines and dinner at the Navy restaurant. This is only drive to the beach so come out and enjoy the beautiful ocean.

September Cruise-In Social, September 19th at 6pm and October 17th at 5:30 p.m., Hosted by: Dee Dalhke and Duncan Johnson

THIRD THURSDAY CRUISE-IN at Billy Baroo's Bar & Grill at Foster Golf Links, 13500 Interurban Ave South, Tukwila, WA 98168, phone 206-588-2763, web: <http://www.billybaroos.com>
Eat-n-greet and socializing; no car show (other than a neat row of parked Miatas,) no competition (other than old-time "bench racing,") no business, no road run, etc. PSMC hosts: Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson, phone 253-845-2424, e-mail toadhallwa@yahoo.com. Drop-ins encouraged, RSVP would be nice for headcount, but "Just do it!" Open to all Mazda Miata/MX-5 enthusiasts. You don't have to be a PSMC member to attend.

Bigfoot Fun Run, Saturday, September 21st, 2013, Hosted by Mindy Bohnas & Bill Bell

If you ever wanted to locate where Bigfoot's have been sighted, you have come to the right place. The event will be starting out at a restaurant at 11am, and the drive will begin afterwards. We will visit at least a minimum of three sites and finish up at a special location. Please check back on the PSMC Website for the updated details.

Mahogany, Merlot and Miatas II, Friday October 4-6, 2013, Hosted by: Ohlsens, Houghtons, and Paul Jaeger

Join us for a fun three-day weekend tour as we venture off to Lake Chelan for the Mahogany & Merlot festival held in Chelan. We will be staying at Campbell's Waterfront Resort, walking distance to the festival. The festival features wine, but also many vintage wooden pleasure craft on display, some offering rides. The big attraction though is the unlimited hydroplanes from the Unlimited Hydroplane Museum. They are also planning a wine tour of the many wineries in the area. This is a beautiful drive through the mountains and the wine country that you don't want to miss.

Apple Cider Run, October 12th, Hosted by: Larry & Emily Muir

They will depart at 10 a.m. This is a fun run with lots of good Miata roads. They will travel about 100 miles with a stop in Orting for lunch at the Around The Corner Café at approximately 1:00 p.m. After lunch, they will embark on more driving on more curvy roads and then end up at the Rockridge Orchards and Cidery at approximately 2:30 p.m. They have soft cider and an immense selection of beers in their quaint store. You can purchase local fresh fruit and veggies, sweet and hard ciders and wine, jams, pies and lots of goodies. This is an event you can't miss.

Note: Check PSMC website for latest details

www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org

Upcoming Events — continued

(Check www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org for current updates)

Halloween Festival, Hosted by the Mackeys, Saturday, October 26th at 5pm

Miatas Do the Corn Maze with Scarecrows

Saturday, October 26th Time: 2:00pm until 8:00pm

Begin: Tom and Marilyn's (14306 Connelly Rd. | Snohomish WA), Telephone: 206.276.9945

End: Bob's Corn (<http://www.bobscorn.com>)

Bring: Food to share at the potluck and chairs

Cost: \$12 Admission to Maze

November Planning and Board Meeting, Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 11am, Milam Motors Meeting Room, Puyallup

Potluck at 11am and Calendar Planning for 2014 @ 11:45 a.m. Board meeting follows.

Come help the board plan our 2014 calendar of events.

End of the Year Party, Saturday, November 9, Fabulous Fifties Meeting Hall, 455 St. Helens Ave., Tacoma, WA.

The event will start with cocktails at 6 p.m. followed by dinner around 7 p.m. Join fellow club members at Fabulous Fifties for an evening of memories. Share the good times of drives from the summer season, RSVP by Oct 31 to ensure a dinner.



From “Miata Magazine” , Winter 1996, as the 2nd generation Miata was being introduced...

On page 10 of that issue, Norman Garrett III, Concept Engineer for the original “Miata Project”, and one of the titans residing in the Miata pantheon, closed his “Editor’s Notebook” column this way:

Will everyone with a “Series One” (what will we call these cars?) run out to buy a “Series Two”? I don’t think that is Mazda’s goal. There are still some 35,000 new buyers per year out there that Mazda has to bait the hook for. And in the designers eyes, if you trade in your Series One on a new model Miata, the ultimate purpose was met: Someone gets to buy your old Miata,

someone who might not be able to afford a new sports car.

In the end, everyone gets to have fun and enjoy the open road. Call it a sort of social engineering in a frivolous market niche (where no one gets hurt) - the goal is to get as many smiles beaming under sun burnt noses as possible, while the music is playing.

And oh, how sweet that music has been playing for those of us who longed for a little sports car to call our own. Thank you, Mazda, for keeping your band in tune.

Photo: Ken Shotwell



Apple Cider Run
Saturday, October 12th
Hosted by: Larry & Emily Muir

Meet: 9:30 a.m. at Starbucks, 601 S. Grady Way, Renton. The drivers' meeting will start at 9:45 and we will depart for our fall adventure at 10 a.m.

This is a fun run with lots of good Miata roads. We will travel about 100 miles with a stop in the cute little town of Orting for lunch at the Around The Corner Café, at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Let's hope for sun as the views are spectacular! After lunch, we'll embark on more driving on more curvy roads and then end up at the Rockridge Orchards and Ciderly at approximately 2:30 p.m. They also have soft cider and an immense selection of beers in their quaint store. You can purchase local fresh fruit and veggies, sweet and hard ciders and wine, jams, pies and lots of goodies.

All drivers and passengers, please bring photo I.D. They don't care if you are 96, you will need I.D. if you want to sample the hard stuff!

Please RSVP by October 10th so we have a head count for the restaurant and cider stop.

Hosted by Larry and Emily Muir 425 691-7524

Miatas Do the Corn Maze with Scarecrows
Saturday, October 26th
Hosted by: Tom and Marilyn

Dress as a scarecrow or bring one as an extra passenger and join our Halloween run. We will meet at Tom and Marilyn's home, take a ride through the east Snohomish country roads, and end at Bob's Corn.

Bring your roasting sticks, something to roast, and potluck dish. The Miata club will furnish drinks, napkins, plates, and silverware. When we arrive at Bob's, leave your dinner fixings at the group check-in area across from Bob's Country store. Bob will transport them to our fire

pit so we do not have to carry them through the Maze. A hay wagon will transport us to the Maze. After eating, we will leave our dinner remains at the pit and enjoy the second half of the Maze. The hay wagon will carry us back to Bob's Country store where everything will be waiting for us. How much fun is that?

Time: 2:00pm until 8:00pm
Begin: Tom and Marilyn's (14306 Connelly Rd. | Snohomish WA)
Telephone: 206.276.9945
End: Bob's Corn (<http://www.bobscorn.com>)

Bring: Food to share at the potluck and chairs

Cost: \$12 Admission to Maze



End of the Year Party
Saturday, November 9th
RSVP by Thursday, October 31st
Contact: Bill Bell via email - arbill@hotmail.com

With the end of the driving season, your PSMC Board has decided to host an End of the Year Party! We'll use a familiar venue, the Fabulous Fifties Party Hall, which is where we had our anniversary party back in March.

If you've never heard of the Fabulous Fifties Meeting Hall, it will be a special treat for our club. The venue features a car-themed hall for the dinner, pre-selected music from the 50's, 60's, and 70's and a fifties-style soda fountain that actually serves as the bar. The cost for this

event is \$25 per person and includes one drink ticket per person for a cocktail or soda; and one raffle ticket per person for a chance to win fabulous car-themed prizes. As usual, we'll have additional raffle tickets and a few other PSMC goodies for sale for an additional cost. If you have attended a PSMC event recently, then you are probably aware of some of the terrific and unusual prizes that we've given away in the past.

Dinner will include your choice of chef-carved roast prime rib or herb-baked salmon. This din-

ner comes with a Caesar salad, potatoes, fresh steamed vegetables, and fresh hot rolls.

The deadline to submit your RSVP is October 31, so we can have an accurate head count for the food order. After you RSVP, please email the host, President Bill Bell, with your choice of the prime rib or salmon so he can ensure the correct number of orders go into the chefs. Pay at the door upon arrival. Please, if you plan to attend, RSVP early and do come, as the club is on the hook for all dinners ordered.



Willamette Valley Miata Club's

“Explore Oregon 2013” Was Held On July 11 - 14

by Dee & Duncan
(in her '99 silver "Road Dancer")

This big adventure started with our PSMC "Two Lanes To Oregon" run, wherein we made the trip to the Explore Oregon meet by avoiding freeways and covering the curviest secondary roads instead. We were joined in Puyallup by Sandi & Fred Holler, Carol Kus & Frank Shriver, Sandy McKnight & Maury Fugitt and Sally & Bob Thomas. Later, Cindy & Tom Millar caught up to us at an afternoon stop. We motored up Mud Mountain Road with a scenic interlude at the dam, then over Chinook Pass (Hwy. 410) and had lunch at Whistlin' Jack Lodge. In Naches our group veered off on some rather tertiary roads we'd discovered in a road rally a couple of weeks earlier and pasted into the Miata tour route. Then it was around the east side of Yakima up and down Konnowac Pass Road (recommended) to a tasting stop at Windy Point Winery and then a fuel top-off and a bit of shopping at Piety Flats. A straight shot down US 97 over Satus Pass was bogged down by a paving job and pilot cars, but we refreshed ourselves with a dessert break at St. John's Greek Bakery, at an orthodox monastery so far in the middle of nowhere that it may be a mirage. After a brief go-round-the-block hiccup in The Dalles (lead navigator had brain fade) we arrived at Cousins Country Inn and a crowd of about 70 Miatas, mostly second and third generations, only a tiny number of NAs present. Naturally we got out the Griot's Speed Shine and started detailing the car (can't show any bugs or dust,) and squeezed in a quick dinner at the excellent Baldwin Saloon. Do you sense a food &

drink theme emerging here? Good thinking.

The Thursday night opening registration, beverages, desserts and ceremonies were at The Dalles Civic Auditorium, an historic venue in its own right. Even had His Honor the Mayor give a speech. We noted more PSMC people joining the crowd: Vicki & Judy Burr-Chellin, Charlotte Fellers & Vera Fellers, Vickie & A.J. McGranaghan. Pretty quick it became obvious this was going to be a busy weekend, just packed with road runs, interesting destinations, and a bit of partying. The host club had arranged for the daily run groups to start at 30-minute intervals and also stagger where we were going, to minimize self-inflicted traffic jams. Other events should do as well.

Friday morning we launched on the Multnomah Falls run, along historic U.S. 30, the original Columbia River Highway from about 100 years ago, and little modified since, thank goodness. Very narrow, very winding, very steep, and just hung on the cliffs. We had a double photo opp with a professional photographer shooting each run group from above as we snaked up the Rowena curves, and then snapping individual cars at the summit viewpoint. Nice souvenirs there! Go to <http://www.rdmpics.com/Cars> to see the whole collection. Yes, we toured the waterfall, and also the historic Crown Point "castle" with its view up and down the river. Major geology and major scenery in that gorge. Then we returned along the old highway past many more waterfalls, had a stop at the fish hatchery and met Herman The Sturgeon who is 70 years old and weighs 450 pounds. Big fish! What you don't find on Miata runs! Lunch was at the very excellent Crazy Pepper Mexican Restaurant in Hood River.

We walked off lunch with official meandering to two nearby wine tasting rooms, and then moved out on the afternoon run to even more wineries. The first stop was to be at Pheasant Valley Winery, but not until many of us back in the pack got all bollixed up at the instruction for "Turn right onto Tucker Rd (Hwy 281.)" The sign for the cross street said "Indian Creek Rd." and Hwy 281 pointed straight ahead. Miatas scattered everywhere! We

had a little tourist map on board, spotted the winery on it, and reversed course and turned the correct direction. (It really was Tucker Rd., just not marked as such. We just bet the driving directions came from Mapquest or Google, who are notorious for not reporting the "ground truth" that navigators see in reality.) After we regrouped at the winery we found it to be great, and bought yet a couple more bottles. We can always throw out our dirty clothes to make space to get the wine home. Later the route went right past the village of Dee, Oregon, which our driver thought appropriately named. We can also report that Straight Hill Road and its connections are far from straight. Hurrah! And oh, how the view evolves as you get away from the forests above the Gorge. First it looks like rolling farms in the Palouse of Washington, then it morphs into a fair semblance of Big Sky Country in Montana. Another stop was at the Gorge White House (wine, microbrews, blueberry cider, beautiful flower gardens) and then return to the hotel on twisties between Mosier and The Dalles. Just enough time to detail the Miata again, of course. Dinner was unscheduled so we tried Nora's Table in Hood River; very upscale with much local food content.

Saturday morning we headed out on a long run south to White River Falls State Park (interesting old grist mill and early hydro power plant remnants below the falls there.) Note that SR 216 out of the park is a real "canyon run." Don't go near the edge! There is about a thousand-foot dropoff and no shoulder or guardrail. Gasp! That led us into the village of Grass Valley, almost to Rajneeshi country. (Remember that odd group from the 1980s?)

"Professional drivers on closed course; do not attempt this at home." Next up were our very own escorted laps of Oregon Raceway Park. Good thing Dee had earlier set her shocks to "maximum stiff." The venue is a 2.3 mile private road racing track with 16 turns and 140 feet elevation change (that's a lot) including multiple ups and downs. It can be run either direction and we did. All that makes it a very tight course, so it would be tons of fun to race a small car like a Miata, but the

driver of a high-horsepower car would be rather busy and could easily “get behind on his steering.” Indeed, for the first year the track record was held by a go-kart! Our Miatas were behind a pace car, so we weren’t zooming all that fast (top of 2nd gear and bottom of 3rd,) not much quicker than normal Miata touring on back roads. Given the tightness of the course, and the absence of other traffic, roadside hazards, and law enforcement, plus the ability to use up all the width of the pavement on a proper “line”, it was possible to press the cars around several sharp corners and approach a 4-wheel drift, although once we powered into the short straightaways we resumed a parade posture. WVMC and the track management hosts get an extra thank-you here for setting up such a fun morning.

We were kind of late returning to the hotel (well, there were lots more twisties to be worked en route) so we had a leisurely lunch and skipped the longish afternoon

run to Timberline Lodge at Mount Hood. In parallel there had also been an all-day run on the Washington side of the gorge, but we weren’t there, so no report. The afternoon break from all the action gave us a chance to detail the car again before the big banquet dinner, back at the Civic Auditorium, near to some artsy street fair that filled downtown. Our event was catered by Cousins, and for once at a buffet the Prime Rib was not over-roasted into shoe leather, hurrah. We shall not discuss our personal lack of luck in the raffles; others scored vastly better.

Sunday morning we took in yet another road run, this one a mini-version that ran from The Dalles to Mosier and return, including some of the previous runs, only the opposite direction. Hmmm, just like out at the raceway. We dodged early-morning deer and then all Miatas stopped to let a big flock of wild turkeys shoo their youngsters across the road. Animal Planet! Our homeward choice was to take

SR14 west on the Washington side of the river, a surprisingly scenic and undiscovered area. We even doped out a pleasant route around the Vancouver, USA, urban sprawl, by zooming very back roads north from Washougal, then east of Battle Ground, then northwest to Woodland where we had a brief shot on I-5 before regaining the two-lane blacktop for the last leg home. Next year Explore Oregon zooms to Cottage Grove and the covered bridge country. We’ve already made our hotel reservations!



Miatas lapping at Oregon Raceway Park



“Lavender Fields Forever”



Left: Maury-n-Sandy zooming up Chinook Pass (elev. 5432 ft.)

Right: Oregon Raceway Park, “Cornering on the door handles.”





Left: Miatas climbing Rowena Curves on Columbia River Highway. (Rick Martinson photo-
www.rdmpei.com/Cars
By permission of the photographer.)

Miata at the Gap XVII was held July 25th — 28th

By Bill Bell

I was fortunate enough to attend the 2013 Miata at the Gap (MATG) XVII at Fontana Village, North Carolina on July 25 – 28, 2013. It is the largest gathering of Miata's on the East Coast, and it will be an event I will always remember. I drove through Tennessee and into North Carolina on Hwy 129/Tail of the Dragon. The beautiful drive through the Gap into Fontana Village was something to remember. The Dragon's Tail has 318 curves over an 11 mile stretch. There are photographers along the way that will take your picture and put it on their website so you may purchase it. The speed limit is 30mph as you could easily run off the road if you are not paying attention to your driving.

After arriving at Fontana Village, I was able to enjoy the festivities of the event. Vendors were lined up selling bags, T-Shirts, air scoops, and more. After visiting the vendors, I checked into my hotel in Bryson City, North Carolina about 32 miles away. Bryson City is a small town in the Great Smoky Mountains of Western North Carolina. The city is surrounded by beautiful mountains, streams, waterfalls, and lakes. That night, I attended the Sunset Drive to Cherochala Skyway. There were about 47 cars that drove to the Mile High Event to watch the Sunset over the mountains. The weather reminded me of the summer weather in Seattle. After the sunset, we drove to Tellico Plains, Tennessee to eat some barbeque. The barbeque was excellent after an hour drive there. We sat at the picnic tables next to the Tellico River hearing the roar of the river. After finishing eating, I decided to wait until all the Miatas left as I wanted to let the fast cars leave first while I would drive slowly back to Bryson City, NC.

While driving back and over a mile high, a group of Miatas were stopped with a spec-

tacular view of the valley and of the stars in the sky. The moon was shining, and we could see all the stars you wanted to see at that location. It was around 11:45pm when I left the Miata group at the top of the mountain and started to drive back to my hotel room. Just before I entered Robbinsville, NC, I stopped at a Miata wreck on the highway. The North Carolina State Police was talking to the Miata driver and spouse about the accident.

The next day, I found out the driver had run over a boar. The Miata was pushed into the embankment and suffered damage to the front grille, right side and underneath the car. The boar was in the road and some local people removed the boar before the State Police arrived. The car was towed away later that night. The next day, the car was able to be driven after minor repairs were done, however more repairs would need to be completed once they returned home. The State Trooper dismissed the five Miata drivers who were accident witnesses, and the accident driver was cited for driving too fast. Since the local people removed the boar before the State Police arrived, there was no evidence that he hit a boar.

Because I returned home around 1am Friday morning, I decided to have a relaxing day seeing Bryson City. Friday night was BBQ night at Fat Buddies in Franklin, North Carolina. I knew everyone would be driving in the Miata group on Highway 28, so I decided to take another route to Franklin. U.S. Highway 23 was a smooth four lane to Franklin that I could use my cruise control on. When I arrived, I was beaten by the group by about 5 minutes, and they were already in line. Fat Buddies is local town's favorite place to eat bbq. I waited in line and was able to eat with the group. We shared stories about our cars

and Miata events. It was a fun night to get to know other Miata owners. Afterwards, I was able to stop by the local stores to pick up a few items. When I was departing the final local store, it began raining on the way home. I took Hwy 28 back as the group took to Franklin. It was a very curvy road. but it was raining heavy so I drove slowly to my hotel room.

Saturday was a hot day to be outdoors. After arriving at Fontana Village, the events of the day were the Annual Dam Picture, lunch hosted by the Graham County Travel and Tourism, and the Beer Swap and Wine Tasting. The Annual Fontana Dam Picture was at the base of the dam where over 100 cars had their picture taken. It was a short drive to get to the event. We could mingle among the group and talk Miatas all day. The pictures were with and without our cars. The interesting thing about the whole event was seeing the dam at river level. At 480 feet high, Fontana is the tallest dam in the Eastern United States, and at the time of its construction, it was the fourth tallest dam in the world. [The Appalachian Trail](#) crosses the top of the dam.

The bbq lunch was hosted by the Graham County Travel and Tourism office. There was bbq, beans, potato chips, apple, and a cold drink. It was free, and there were a long line to eat the lunch. During lunch, I learned a Miata had run off the road. I later found out the driver bumped his head and totaled his car. You can see the wreck at the You Tube link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5vqvYGClak>. On my way back to the hotel room, I stopped and visited Fontana Dam Visitor's Center. I learned how the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

(Continued on page 10)

Other Clubs' Events

MIATA AT THE GAP (Continued from page 9)

brought jobs, electricity, and growth to the rural areas of Tennessee and North Carolina in the 1940's.

That night, I returned to Fontana Village for the Beer Swap and Wine Tasting. There were over a hundred people bringing their

micro brews. I saw peach and apple beers there. It is truly amazing how many micro-brewery's we have in this country.

On Sunday morning, I wanted one last run past Fontana Village. It was quiet, as everyone was still in bed when I drove by there around 7:30am in the morning. It was a fun time to reflect on the events I had attended.

Miata at the Gap XVII

Photos: Bill Bell



The Gathering of 2013 Was Held August 17th

By Charlotte Fellers

A light turnout but great weather and a stellar location provided another successful Gathering for the Puget Sound Miata Club on August 17. Around 40 people attended, including two new members who also won two of our People's Choice Awards.



Above from top: Winners of the People's Choice awards were: First Generation, Bret Anderson; Second Generation, Stephen Henderson (new member) and Third Generation, Kenneth Klinger (new member).

The Ravensdale Park venue was a little out of the way, but the old growth trees and large cabana provided plenty of shade and protection from the elements. The parking lot was filled with mostly Miatas all day, but a few other "classics" and "future classics" were also on hand for admirers to enjoy. After primping their cars for a time, lunch of fresh-cooked burgers, baked beans, salad, and chips were served, followed by the all-important voting for the People's Choice Awards in the First, Second, and Third Generation models. As people enjoyed dessert of pineapple cake, carrot cake, and coconut macaroons, the coveted trophies were awarded by Tom Millar, who took charge of the People's Choice Event.



This year, the club enlisted the aid of a new vendor for our trophies, which were clear resin atop a faux marble stand and then etched with racing flags and the PSMC logo. These will most likely show up again in future events, as they were a



big hit. Thanks to Tom Millar and his shrewd shopping to find these unique awards.



A rousing giveaway of some valuable prizes of many types meant that nearly everyone walked away with something from the many choices on hand.



All photos: Bret Anderson

2013 WHIDBEY ISLAND RUN was on AUGUST 24th

By Frank Shriver

Despite cloudy skies and occasional sprinkles of rain, 12 Miatas with 22 people arrived at the parking lot behind the Dairy Queen in Clinton, on Whidbey Island. We found ourselves sharing the parking lot with a motorcycle club starting on their own run. They out-numbered us and were a lot noisier, but we definitely were more colorful. The Whidbey Island Run started with a meander through South Whidbey past the Island County fairgrounds, through beautiful downtown Langley, and up the east side of Saratoga Passage. In Freeland we made a stop at the town's waterside park. We then drove around the west side of Holmes Harbor, and continued north to Coupeville, for another stop at the boat launching-ramp area. Traveling

north, past Coupeville, we stayed on less traveled roads towards Oak Harbor. Our next challenge was getting through Oak Harbor without losing a car; we were highly successful getting through town!

We then were off toward Deception Pass. After stopping at a local grocery store, time was allowed for those who wanted to the view Deception Pass. After regrouping we headed south, making a turn off the highway we went by Naval Station Whidbey, continued past a golf course and stayed on less traveled roads. By this time the drivers were rewarded with the clouds lifting, and the start of sunny skies.

One of the most amazing things that occurred was that every time we had to merge onto a major highway, there were no cars to interfere, and all Miatas were able to merge as a group!

After doing the final legs, several cars and about 16-18 people arrived at Frank and Carol's house, where some hamburgers were burned and a lot of great food was consumed. Many discussions on all kinds of subjects were held and everyone seemed to enjoy the event.

Photo credit: Top right, Jennie Digilio; , Bottom, and Top left, Ross Scott)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

FALL PLANNING AND BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 2, 2013



It is that time again to start planning for our next year's events. The Fall Planning Meeting will be an event that will include planning next year's events and continue to revise the Constitution and ByLaws. If you are planning to host an event or plan a drive in 2014 for the PSMC, then you'll need to try and make it to the Fall Calendar Planning Meeting on November 2, 2013. The fun starts at 11 a.m. with a Potluck at Milam Mazda in Puyallup, WA. So bring your best dish and let everyone enjoy.

At 11:45am, we'll commence revising the Constitution/ByLaws and begin setting the calendar for 2014. This involves you telling the board the date and concept for your drive so we can block the date on the calendar for you and prevents numerous events happening on the same day. It's best to come with a first and second choice date in mind so if others have events planned, you can work with everyone's schedule. Following the planning meeting and Constitution/ByLaws, the board will have its fall board meeting. The room is available until 3pm.

Any member of the club is welcome and encouraged to attend either or both parts of the meeting. If you have an event you'd like to be on the calendar but cannot attend the meeting, then please notify one of the board members and let them know the first and second-choice dates you have in mind and the name of the event so it will be on the 2014 calendar.

Where: Milam Mazda, 2nd Floor, Main Building, 608 River Road, Puyallup, WA.

When: November 2 at 11 a.m.

Meeting starts at 11:45am

See you there!

Bill Bell

PSMC President



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: BILL BELL (president@pugetsoundmiataclub.org)

EXECUTIVE: CHARLOTTE FELLERS (past-prez@pugetsoundmiataclub.org)

COMMUNICATIONS: PAM MCGRIFF
(secretary@pugetsoundmiataclub.org)

FINANCIAL: SEAN MCGRIFF
(treasurer@pugetsoundmiataclub.org)

MEMBERSHIP: MINDY BOHNAS & NANCY PAQUIN (IN TRAINING)

INSURANCE: SEAN MCGRIFF
(treasurer@pugetsoundmiataclub.org)

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE: TOM MACKEY, FRANK SHRIVER,
MIKE SPRINGER, TOM MILLAR, VICKIE OLSON, AND ROSS
SCOTT.

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Webmaster: Sean McGriff
Assistant Webmaster: Mindy Bohnas
Autocross Representative: Dieter Beldi
Specialty Web Programmer: John Young

Newsletter Editor: Ken Shotwell (editorpsmc@gmail.com)

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 newsletter, and operating supplies constitute a financial burden that must be met by the membership. **The Sounder is emailed as a PDF unless you opt for physical delivery.** Make your Miata experience more enjoyable and join the club and participate. To keep the club meaningful and solvent, we need your support! Club membership is available by going to:

www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org/misc/join.php or by sending your name, address, email, and a check for **\$30 (annual chapter dues) or \$40 (dues plus Sounder delivery via snail mail)** to:

Puget Sound Miata Club
C/O Mindy Bohnas
12775 Deer Crest Dr SW
Port Orchard, WA 98367
phone: 360-895-0931



Thanks to the following Miata dealers and businesses who provide PSMC member discounts (simply show your current 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%

Johnny Schauf at Milam Mazda of Puyallup (253) 845-1766 / Cost plus 20%

University Mazda of Seattle (206) 634-1191

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

Griot's Garage, Tacoma (800) 345-5789