October 2006 Volume 17 No. 10

MIATA SOUNDER

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

Inside October

2-3
ALS Walk/Oysters
Haunts/Tofino
Parades
4-5
FFF/Turkey Teaser
Planning Meeting
Holiday Party
Veterans/Madonna
6-7
Whistlin' Jack
Mixed Doubles
8-9
Autocross
Coop's Garage
10-11
Special Club
Gayle/Dustin
12
Calendar/Classifieds
New/Familiar

PSMC Loses Dedicated Webmaster Eric Newton Bass

1939 - 2006
High Flight

By John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew –
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God. . . .

Image and poem taken from Eric Bass's Memorial pamphlet.

Current PSMC Webmaster and long time member Eric Bass passed away on August 22, 2006 after a long struggle with several health issues.

Eric joined the club in the fall of 1992. During his years of being a PSMC member, he was active in our Parade Section, taking extreme pleasure in "hosting" the China Town Parades. Mainly, though, many of us will remember him as the man who dedicated countless hours and resources revamping our website after becoming our Chief Electronic Information Officer (Webmaster) in 1998.

Memorial services were held on August 26 and were attended by many of our PSMC Club members. Common memories by friends and family who spoke at the memorial were that Eric was an exceedingly generous person who loved to learn new things, then teach others what he knew. Family came first, but his home was always open to anyone needing a place to stay for any reason. He loved a good party, telling stories, and driving his Miata when he could no longer fly airplanes or helicopters. Eric was laid to rest at Haven at Rest in Gig Harbor in the lower pasture. (Eric had always joked about being buried in a pine box in the lower pasture on his own property so when the director mentioned the new plots available in the lower pasture, his family knew that's where Eric should be.) He will be missed and remembered always.

Read more about Eric Bass in Randy Umemoto's musing about WHY THIS CLUB IS SPECIAL, located on page 10 of this month's Sounder.

MIATA SOUNDER

STAFF

Editor ..... Cindy Smith
Creative Editorial Support ..... PFC R.W. Moore
Co. A 431 Signal Hv Con Bn
Distribution ..... Randy and Rosa Umemoto
Mailing List ..... Randy Umemoto
Photography ..... Contributed
Printing.....Blue Sky Printing

Oooooooo Oooooooo

Club Events ..... Event Masters
Event Aftermath ..... Contributors
Autocross ..... Denise Williamson
Coop's Garage.....Bill Cooper

PUBLISHING

The *SOUNDER* is published monthly (as close to the first of the month as possible). The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. All articles and ads are due by then, so as to be included in the following month's publication.

Event Masters are encouraged to get their event info to the editor as soon as possible to ensure all members can plan for the event.

Send your submissions to:

Miata Sounder
11908 215th Pl SE
Snohomish, WA 98296-5401
(360) 668-5508
sounder@ps-miata.org

ADVERTISING

Classified - member..... .....free
Classified - nonmember/business $20.00
1/4 page $35.00
1/2 page $65.00

LEGAL STUFF

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.

ps-miata.org

Visit our website for the latest club info, links to other Miata sites and more.

upcoming events

Walk to D'Feet ALS

Sat., Oct. 7, 2006 @ 9:00 AM
Seward Park, Seattle
PSMC Rep. & Host: Gayle Lazur

Hard as it is to believe, it has been almost a year since the last walk. So much has happened, both good and bad. Unfortunately, George lost his fight with ALS and will only be with us in spirit this year, but with your help we can make this another successful effort. So far a cure has not been found for this devastating disease, but with the continued efforts of researchers around the world, I know a cure is not far off.

Your support for both George and me during his illness was a gift I will always treasure. Please join me this year in celebrating his life and helping to raise funds for the local ALS chapter. These funds go to help patients and their families deal with this disease – by providing respite time for the family caregivers, by providing necessary equipment at no charge, by providing education to help families deal with all the stages of the disease and to fund research so a cure can be found.

This is a 5 mile walk around Seward Park in Seattle. The route is paved and level. Check-in starts at 9:00 AM and the walk starts at 10:00 AM. Dogs on leashes are more than welcome to attend as well. We will gather for a group photo before the walk. We raised $3000 last year and I would like to be able to raise at least $3200 this year. So please go to the ALS Walk website, http://walk.alsa-ec.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ALS_SignUp and register to walk with George's Group. Please check to see if your employers have a matching gift program. If so, please take advantage of it to double the impact of your donation.

Thank you again for all of your support – let's get ready to walk!

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO SEWARD PARK:
From the North: Take I-5 S towards Seattle; Take the W Seattle Fwy/ Columbian Way exit (exit #163A); Keep LEFT at the fork in the ramp; Merge on onto Columbian Way S; Turn Slight Right onto 15TH Ave S; Slight Left onto S Columbian Way; Slight Right onto S Alaska St.; Right onto Rainier Ave S/WA-167; Left onto S Orcas ST, which becomes Lake Washington Blvd S; Right onto S. Juneau St. Seward Park is straight ahead.
From the South: Take I-5 N towards Seattle;Take the Martin Luther King exit (exit #157); Merge onto MLK Way S/ WA-900 W; Turn Right onto S. Henderson St.; Left onto Rainier Ave. S/WA-167; Right onto S Orcas St., which will become Lake Washington Blvd S.; Right onto S. Juneau St. Seward Park is straight ahead.

Remember

You can now get your Sounder via email instead of snail mail. It's easy, just send an email to sounder@comcast.net

upcoming events

OysterFest Run

Sat., Oct. 7, 2006, Noon -1 PM
Seward Park, Seattle

Hosted By Allan Ohlsen

George Lazur always loved good food, a spirited drive and a little adventure with his friends. In this spirit, immediately following the ALS walk at Seward Park in Seattle, we will shoot down to Shelton for the OysterFest.

OysterFest is held once a year at the Mason County Fairgrounds located in Shelton and features oyster shucking contests, art and entertainment, wine tasting and microbreweries, lots of seafood and of course, the tasty oyster. OysterFest is only $3.00 to get in and parking is free.

The departure time for the drive to Shelton will be around noon-1pm. We will proceed to I-5 to Hwy 101 in Olympia and onto Shelton. Not doing the ALS walk but still want to be part of this drive and event?? Call Allan @206-245-7027 around noon Oct. 7th, and we'll try to hook you up with us.

See driving directions to Seward Park from ALS walk event.

Haunted Places 2006

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2006 @ 9:30 AM
Conway Shell Grocery & Deli,
I-5 Exit 221

Hosted by Smith & Birman

Theater ghosts, women screaming in pain, lobotomies performed and cremated ashes left abandoned in a warehouse. And of course, what would one of Cindy's Haunted Places Tours be without a cemetery thrown in? This year we will be visiting our ghoulish friends and places in the Mount Vernon and Bellingham areas, and we have found some wonderful back roads to get there. So come on out, enjoy the drive, the stories and the music as Tom is putting together a new CD (I know, you would think he would be out of Halloween Songs by now!).

We will be meeting at the Conway Shell Grocery and Deli off the I-5 exit 221 at 9:30 AM. (Take a right turn at the end of the exit ramp and then an immediate right into the Conway Shell Grocery and Deli.) We will have a drivers' meeting at 9:45 and leave promptly at 10:00 AM. Please RSVP, either using the website or to Cindy at tomaci@verizon.net so we can let the restaurant know how many will be coming.

Oh, and by the way, **DON'T FORGET YOUR FLASHLIGHTS**!

October Parades

More info at www.ps-miata.org

Oct. 31: Downtown Safe Trick or Treat in Bremerton @ 5:00 PM

Tofino: Just Add Water!!

October 11 - 15, 2006

By Bill Aycock, Don Bojarski & Friends

The Tofino tour is on! Despite the dire news reports that you may have seen regarding the water shortage there, deliveries are being made and the Lodge and restaurants are open. So, with that little crisis averted, the rest of the details are being worked out. There will be a nice dinner at the Lodge Friday night and another at Schooner's Saturday night. Those who have signed up for the trip will be getting an email with details on the dinners. The remainder of the activities is up to you! Do check out the "Links" section of the Lodge's website at www.middlebeach.com to see the things you can take part in.

The meet-up for the event will be at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn on Wednesday night, October 11. Find us in the restaurant, or possibly in the bar. On Thursday, we'll meet outside the Inn at 8:00 AM for a brief driver's meeting, then head over to the ferry terminal. We'll be taking a 10:15 AM ferry from Tsawwassen, arriving at Duke Point (Nanaimo) at 12:15, and then traveling several more hours to arrive in Tofino in the late afternoon. The ferry fare is about $57.20 for two persons and a car. We will stop for lunch near Nanaimo.

Thursday night dinner in Tofino is on your own, then Friday and Saturday days are also on your own for scenic (or relaxing) adventures. Sunday's drive back will be more informal, with departure at your discretion. If you're taking the same route back, ferries leave Duke Point at 10:15 AM, 12:45 PM and 3:15 PM. Alternatives include Swartz Bay to Tsawwassen or the Black Ball Ferry from Victoria to Port Angeles.

If you have any questions, do call or email Bill Aycock at (206) 463-0369 or email totrod@speakeasy.net.

And Get Ready To Relax!

CALLING ALL VETERANS!

On Saturday, November 11th, the Smiths & Webers will be hosting a Veteran's Remembrance Run (Please see article on page 5). We would like to honor all of our PSMC Veterans, so please, send in your Service Photo along with your service information to Cindy Smith @ tomaci@verizon.net for a special surprise relating to the run.

So, who is PFC R. W. Moore (pictured above)? Which war was he in? And what was his unit? Come to the Veteran's Remembrance Run and find out! And for those of you who want to unravel the clues to these questions, there will be a special prize! Clues can be found somewhere in the August, September, October and November Sounders.

PS. If you have ever been on one of Cindy's Tours, you know that she goes all out with her "driving directions." As of October's deadline date, she has only received THREE photos from our PSMC Veterans. We know there are more of you out there! Please, send in your photos ASAP so Cindy has a time to do an honorable job on her brochure. Thank you!

upcoming events

First Friday Formal

November 3, 2006 @ 7 PM
Pellini Restaurant, Seattle
By Allan Ohlsen & Gayle Lazur

It's that time again! Time for another First Friday Formal and November is a great month to go "steppin' out" in style. In memory of George Lazur, we will be dining at one of George and Gayle's favorite fine dining establishments, Pellini Restaurant. Located on the 28th Floor of the Madison Renaissance Hotel in downtown Seattle, the skyline views and elegant ambiance are breathtaking. The meal prices are quite reasonable and the wine list is extensive. There is both valet parking and a public garage located in the lower level of the building. And yes, Pellini's will gladly validate your parking. This will be a special evening. If you have never attended a FFF, it's a great opportunity to get dressed up and be with other PSMC friends. Come see why this is a favorite place to dine. The event will be open to the first 20 people so dust off your tux and get your RSVP in today.

Questions?? Contact Allan 206-444-6845

Driving Directions: Southbound I-5; take Union St. exit, left (south) at 5th Ave., go approx. 6 blocks passing Madison St., left at Marion St., left at 6th Ave., left at Madison, left into the Madison Renaissance hotel parking garage located in the middle of the block between 6th and 5th Ave.

Northbound: Follow signs and take Madison St. exit, take left at Madison, take left into hotel parking garage just past 6th Ave. If you miss the Madison exit, you can take the Seneca St. Exit and go south (left) at 5th Ave and follow southbound directions.

Turkey Teaser

Sunday Nov. 19, 2006
Hosted by Sean & Pam McGriff

Join us again (or for the first time) for this annual autumn event. This is always a great time of year to drive through our local roads and neighborhoods. With the change of the season, the fall colors are always a visual delight.

We are still working on the meeting place and route, but we will end up at our favorite Mexican restaurant: Mucho Bueno, at the corner of Park Ave N and N 3rd Street in downtown Renton. Check the November Sounder or the website (www.ps-miata.org) for more details.

There will be plenty of turkeys to hunt and trivia to answer so be sure to bring your good eyes and quick wit!

Let us know if you can make it. Sent your RSVPs to psmhome@comcast.net, call (425) 430-0255 or RSVP via the website calendar at www.ps-miata.org.

Hope to see you there!

PSMC Planning & Board Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 5, 2006 @ 2 PM
Ben Dews Clubhouse Grill
6501 6th Ave., Tacoma
Hosted by the PSMC Board; Article by Dustin Locke

Let's Bring In The New Year By Planning For It!

Do you have good ideas? Are there suggestions that you would like to make that would make the Puget Sound Miata Club even better? If so, you should plan on attending the Planning Meeting in November! These Planning Meetings are where we discuss new ideas and map out our events for the up and coming year. If you want to make 2007 a great year for our club, then you should head out and make your ideas heard!

This November's Meeting will be held at the Club House Grill located at 6501 6th Ave. in Tacoma. They will be serving breakfast (as well as other entrees) all day long. They are known for having good food at moderate prices. We already have the Back Room Booked and it can accommodate up to forty people. Due to the size of the venue, we will need to have your RSVP by the first of the month. As usual, immediately following the Planning Meeting, we will be hosting a Board Meeting. We hope to see you all there with some fresh new ideas!

Directions: **From the North**: take I-5 South to WA-16 West (exit #132) toward Gig Harbor/Bremerton; take 6th Ave exit toward WA-163; turn left on 6th Ave; restaurant is about .5 miles on the right. **From the South**: take I-5 North to Exit #132/So. 38th Street onto West-16 towards Bremerton; take 6th Ave. exit toward WA-163; turn left on 6th Ave.; restaurant is about .5 miles on the right.

A Miata In A Pear Tree

PSMC Holiday Party
Sat. December 9, 2006
Renton Community Center
Article by Dustin Locke

Hang up the holly and send Cratchet home early, its time to start thinking about the annual PSMC Holiday Party! The merriment will be taking place on December Ninth this year.

We will once again be having it at the Renton Community Center, catered by the Renton Technical College (who has a new menu) and already have a block of 10 rooms (with both king and queen beds) reserved at the Quality Inn (formerly the Silver Cloud Inn) at the rate of $75.00 per night. These rooms will be held until November 10th, when at that time they will be released to the general public.

We will have lots for information coming up on the Web Site as well as in the Sounder. Keep the date open and keep an ear out for the sound of Reindeer on the roof. Ho Ho Ho!!!

Veteran's Day Run

Sat. November 11, 2006 @ 9:30 AM
Discovery Park, Seattle

Hosted by Smith & Weber

Think of Cindy's Graveyard-to-Graveyard Tour. Now think of it with a twist – a military twist. And think of it as stated in Dustin's President's message this month: that Cindy's events are fun and educational. So with that in mind:

- Do you know what war the *Star Spangled Banner* was penned? Or what war the White House burned?
- How about the war that was behind the presidential campaign slogan "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too?"
- Do you know what famous movie star was a recipient of the Medal Of Honor? Or how about how many Medal of Honor Recipients are buried in Washington State?

Come along for a great drive into the past while we honor those who gave their lives for the freedoms we all enjoy today.

We will be meeting at Discovery Park in Seattle at 9:30 AM on Saturday, November 11th and leaving at 10:00 AM SHARP! We have a lot of ground to cover, both historically and literally!

Please RSVP ASAP so we can make plans for a group lunch somewhere that can accommodate our size. (RSVP to either Cindy at tomaci@verizon.net, Dale & Regena at dale.regena@verizon.net or via the website at www.ps-miata.org)

Directions to Discovery Park:

I-5 Northbound: Take the Mercer Street exit; Turn right at first stoplight onto Fairview Ave N.; At next set of stoplights go left onto Valley St.; Stay in far right lane that merges onto Westlake Avenue N.; Westlake Ave becomes Nickerson Street; Go straight on Nickerson Street past Fremont Bridge and Seattle Pacific University; Staying in left lane follow the sign to the Ballard Bridge/Emerson Street; At 3 way stop take a left onto Emerson St.; Continue on Emerson St., through one stop light, until you get to a 4 way stop with a flashing light; Turn right onto West Gilman; West Gilman becomes West Government Way; Follow West Government Way until you come to the east entrance of the Park. (about 1/2 mile); The Visitor Center will be on the left.

I-5 Southbound: Take the 45th Street Exit and head west (right); Follow 45th, staying to the right;45th becomes 46th Avenue North; Follow 46th until it becomes Market Street; Continue on Market until you reach 15th Avenue NW; Go left on 15th Avenue NW, following it over the Ballard Bridge; Take the first right after the bridge onto Emerson Street; Take a right onto West Gilman at the 4 way flashing light; W. Gilman becomes West Government Way; Follow until you come to the East entrance of the Park. (about 1/2 mile); The Visitor Center will be on the left.

The Long Way Home

Part IV in the Search for Madonna: Final Leg

By Cindy Smith

After our participation in the Great Smear Campaign of Bruce's Robe, Stephanie and I wisely decided to depart for home way before everyone else was even stirring. However, we just couldn't let sleeping dogs lie, so before leaving we couldn't help but to recite Dr. Seus at the top our voices:

Up, up, up, Great Day for up!
Up ear number one, ear number two
Up, heads, up whiskers, tails!
Great day, today! Great Day for UP!

And off we went. We still had a lot of sight-seeing and twisty-turnys ahead of us as we were going home via Hwy 1. First stop would be Monterrey, where we stopped and visited the Aquarium, courtesy of Gayle Lazur. If you are ever in the area and have time to visit this aquarium, it is a must. [By the way, the jelly fish on the right was taken by yours truly - and if you are still receiving your Sounders in the B&W version, you are really missing out! You can't believe how pretty it is in color!) Then it was a quick lunch at Bubba Gump's and off again to Santa Cruz. Not much was happening on the Boardwalk, but at least the Roller Coaster was running. It's a pretty good ride, but Stephanie found it a bit anti-climatic after our adventure on the San Luis Obispo back roads with the SDMC! The rest of the evening, we relaxed by the pool.

The next morning found us winding through the Santa Cruz Mountains on Hwys 17 & 35 on our way to San Francisco, where we would meet up with a former neighbor of ours. (beautiful Scenery, besides, a section of Hwy 1 was closed just south of San Francisco). Pat gave us a whirlwind tour, taking in all the "must-see" sights that we could cram in one day. By the end of the day, we were wiped out and very thankful that we were going to get the chance to sleep-in the next day. Well, that was the theory until the garbage men clanged the cans outside our window at 6 AM!

Cruising Down Lombard Street. Photo by Stephanie Smith.

After a wonderful breakfast at a diner around the corner, we headed off to drive the Mazda Speed down Lombard Street and to go in search of Golden Gate Park. We wanted to get a good picture of it before driving over it. Needless to say, we got turned around more than once and our plan of getting out of San Francisco before noon went awry. We had hopes of reaching the Drive-thru Tree in Leggett before dusk, but what with our late start and having to stop at all the vista points, we only were able to make it to Fort Bragg – which we found out

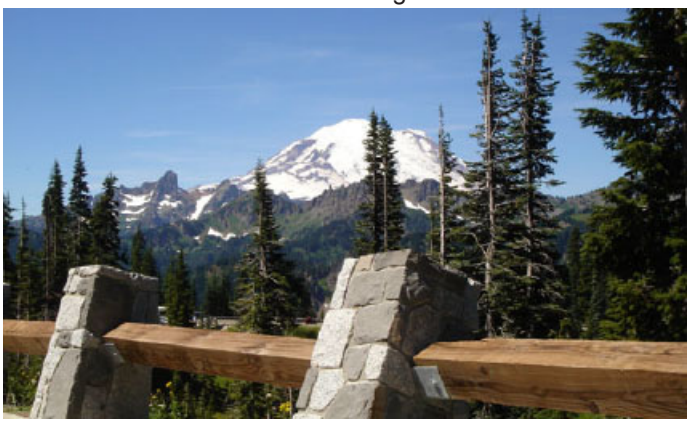
Madonna continued on page 11

Miata Journey To Breakfast at Whistlin' Jack's Lodge

By Sandy McKnight, CRVHGR

Can Your Miata Come Out and Play? Randy and Rosa asked the question and we answered "yes"! I have always believed that anticipation is half the fun, but there's just something so enjoyable about a spontaneous Miata run…

The morning was crisp and sunny as we left Enumclaw, heading over Chinook Pass toward Whistlin' Jack's Lodge. We skirted Mt. Rainier, drinking in the magnificent views each time we turned a corner or climbed a ridge.



Going up the mounain. Photo by Sandy McKnight.

The group decided to forego radio chatter and just enjoy the drive, following CARLUST through the combination of sweeping turns and switchbacks that took us over the pass. The smell of the pines warming in the sun mixed with the wildflowers was intoxicating, and we could even hear the White River rushing over the rocks above the sound of Miata exhausts.

Following CARLUST. Photo by Sandy McKnight.

Randy's Mom and Dad met us for breakfast, driving up from their home south of Yakima. They mingled easily with club members in the parking lot, and after introductions, we moved into the lodge for breakfast. We were seated in front of huge windows overlooking the woods and the river.

At Rosa's suggestion, our table started the meal by sharing a

Journey continued next column

Journey continued from previous column

cinnamon roll between 6 people. Yes, that was ONE cinnamon roll, and it was too big for the six of us to finish!! Yummmmm, was it good…and then our breakfast arrived. We knew immediately that doggy bags would be needed.

After lingering over our meals and conversations, we made our way back to the parking lot, and found that the crisp morning had turned into a hot afternoon. We made some wardrobe changes, said good-bye and thanks to the Umemotos, and headed back to the west side of the mountains, each Miata stopping where they wished, to take pictures and enjoy the beautiful Washington scenery.

Great drive, great food, great friends…what a day!! Thanks to Randy and Rosa for asking all of us to come out and play.

Destination Achieved! Rosa & Randy at the Lodge. Photo by Sandy McKnight.

From the South Bend Parade

All Photos by Randy Umemoto.

Mixed Doubles: The Combined Corvette & Miata Cruise to South Bend

By Duncan and Dee

Another dawn launch in the name of motorsports. We left Puyallup at oh-six-thirty with a convoy of four sports cars to get to the start of the tour in Centralia: Bill & Judy (yellow Corvette), Dee (silver Miata), Linda & Diane (green Miata), and Duncan (blue Corvette). At breakfast at "Country Cousin," more cars joined until we had a huge fleet of Puget Sound Miata Club cars (adding Laurie & Ron, Bob & Sally, Maury, Dennis & Joanie, Charlotte, Mindy, Liz, Karen, plus that Arkansas Razorback guy (Bill Bell) with his shrill start-your-engines whistle) and a similar number of Corvettes de Olympia cars. One more of each marquee joined us later at the parade start (that would be Randy & Rosa for the Miata gang). That total roster is what we read from the liability releases; if we missed you, we apologize.

"Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer . . ." This year it was the Miatas' turn to lead the road run, with new members Bob & Sally Thomas in the blue roadster up front. (Your reporters' cars were at mid-pack.) From the start, the tour partially reversed the route of All City Rally XXV to Ford's Prairie, Galvin, and northwest almost to Oakville, then turning south to Adna. This tour is known for an "incident" every year, and this time it was provided by somebody's Springer Spaniel, who was sitting in the road as we approached. He trotted out of the way, but then decided to return to the pavement in between cars of the Miata pack. The dog escaped unscathed from his new career as an autocross cone thanks to the zoom-zoom skills of several quick-reacting drivers. Otherwise, we had great winding roads and great late summer scenery. Given the extra-warm weather this summer, it was too early for trees to be changing colors, but the farmers were cutting one last crop of hay, and the apple trees were laden with fruit at the neatly-kept farmsteads in this surprisingly undiscovered area. At the intersection with Highway 6, our side road described a big "U" and the lead cars and the back of the pack were able to wave to one another.

After we sneaked around the back side of Rainbow Falls State Park, our first rest stop was at the sleepy village of Pe Ell, where the parked sports cars totally dominated the main street. We found a restoration project going on at the big wooden one-time nunnery, hotel, brothel and Masonic lodge. (Not all of those

Cruise continued next column

"Whaddya mean it isn't a brothel any more?" PSMC Roadsters in Pe Ell. Photo by Duncan Johnson.

Cruise continued from previous column

at the same time, we don't think!) A local man told us it's going to be a bed-n-breakfast, and if that works out it will become a Suitable Destination for sure. As we left Pe Ell, several townspeople waved to us from their front yards, and one couple even said, "Thanks for visiting!" Come to think, people waved at us everywhere. And where farmers in pickups were waiting at side roads for our procession to pass (which didn't take long!), we waved to them. The driving tour was getting saturated with motoring enthusiasm, and if old timers squinted their eyes just right, the clock set itself back a half century, our cars morphed into MG-TDs and Jaguar XK-120s, and we were driving to some big sports car meet at Bridgehampton or Thompson or Meadowdale or Torrey Pines or some other once-important but now long-forgotten speed venue, and all was right with the world. Who says you can't go home again? On these road runs you don't ever have to grow up! Is this a great hobby or what? Snap back to the 21st century and quickly double-clutch a couple of downshifts for the climbing left past Fern Hill Cemetery outside of Menlo. There was a bumpy construction ditch that screwed up the subsequent 10 mph hairpin, but after that came mile after mile of S-bends through the woods to Raymond. This year it was the Corvettes who were nipping at the Miatas' tailpipes here (recall, last year we were arranged the other way around on this segment), proving that although our cars and our club cultures may be a bit different – and not that much, really – nobody in this group is going to let any good sports car road go to waste.

Corvette driver's view as he desperately pursues zooming Miatas. Photo by Duncan Johnson.

A quick pit stop at McDonald's primed us for the final sprint to South Bend, where the little waterfront town was absolutely jam-packed with people for their 44th annual "Come And Play On Labor Day" parade. The street fair amusements and booths were crowding in on our traditional staging area by the post office, but we found space and prepped for our starts in 40th and 47th place. That's about mid-pack, sports fans; this is a big parade. This one starts promptly at 1:00 PM and moves out smartly so there is little hurry-up-and-wait. And, oh, the little children! Thousands of them at the roadside, cheering and waving and yelling: "Nice car!" "Can I have a ride?" "Can you afford

Cruise continued on page 12

Gearing up for Nationals

By Denise Williamson

It's been another crazy month! Many local autocrossers have been gearing up for Nationals and the Pro Finale by getting as much seat time as possible. The rest of us you can just call "Autocross Addicts" (or something like that). The largest local event this year, the SCCA Packwood National Tour, was held August 12-13. There were 260 drivers in 47 classes. 45 of those drivers were in Miatas, spanning eight classes, six states, and two provinces. PSMC was represented in three classes: C Stock, G Stock, and Street Modified 2. Alan Dahl drove his '06 MX-5 to a second place trophy in C Stock, 1.617 out of first. In G Stock, Glen Hernandez drove an '05 Mini Cooper S to a third place trophy, just .293 out of first. As you've probably guessed, Street Mod 2 was the most popular class with PSMC drivers. Dieter Beldi led the PSMC charge by placing eighth. Directly behind him (by all of .013) was Brett Wilson, and Enrique Garcia was 11th. This was a really tough class with some **very** expensive cars in it.

Enrique Garcia taking on the Packwood National Tour. Photo by Denise Williamson.

Also held on August 13 was the BSCC (Bremerton Sports Car Club) sixth event of the year. PSMC member Tom Slipp stayed in town and ended up winning a second place trophy in Sports C.

August 19-20, Enrique Garcia was brave(?) enough to drive in the SCCA ProSolo in Wendover, Utah. For those of you who have never heard of Wendover, it has been compared to a sandblasting furnace. It didn't seem to phase Enrique much, as he drove to a fourth place finish in a borrowed STS2 Miata (only 1.213 out of first).

Everett was the place, August 27th was the date, and NWDE (WWSCC club) held their annual "Clothing Optional" autocross. Yes, you have to wear clothes, although some people didn't one year but they got in trouble and…. that's another story. Anyway, there were four PSMC members at this event. Dieter Beldi not only won the Open Street Class, he ran the top unindexed time of the day! Russ Hill placed fifth in Street Tire 3 (Touring) in his '91 Miata (previously owned by Bruce "Trouble" Hoskins). Glen Hernandez won a fifth place trophy in PRO1, and Alan Dahl placed 16th.

There were three autocrosses over Labor Day weekend: PCA (Porsche Club, a closed event), SCCA, and BSCC. The BSCC event was held on Monday, September 4, and was attended by two PSMC drivers who both brought home trophies. Tom Slipp won a second place trophy in Sports C; Dieter Beldi won the Sports Prepared class and also ran the third top unindexed time of the day.

The SCCA event was held in Bremerton on September 3, with six PSMC members driving. Open PAX was the most popular class for PSMC members this time. Glen Hernandez won a sixth place trophy (and the sixth top indexed time of the day), followed by Enrique Garcia (14th), Tim Irwin (18th in a Porsche 911 RS), and Alan Dahl (21st). In NS4 (comprised of STS2, STU, and STX), Tom Slipp placed 9th. Dieter Beldi won Street Mod 2 by a whopping 4.824 over National Champion Angela Moffett, and also ran the ninth top unindexed time of the day.

If your interest has been piqued, you're in luck! There will be an **AUTOCROSS NOVICE SCHOOL** on October 7 in Bremerton, co-chaired by Bill Zerr and Mary Lee. The cost will be $35. Lunch is included. There is no prior experience necessary. No online registration is available. The class is capped at 39 entrants. If you'd like to secure your spot, send a check made out to BSCC to Karl Coleman, 16542 115th Ave SE, Renton, WA 98055 and an email to Mary Lee maryrlee3@comcast.net. For further information, see http://www.bscc.net/ Gate open: 7am, Registration & Tech: 7:30am, Driver's meeting: 8:45.

Glen Hernandez takes on the biggest challenge of the day: The Trike-a-cross!. Photo by Denise Williamson.

By the time you read this, we

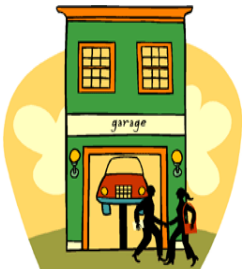
Nationals continued on page 9

October Autocross

For details see wwscc.org

3	BSCC Monthly Meeting at Round Table Pizza in Gig Harbor
8	BSCC Event # 8 at Bremerton
10	NWR/SCCA Solo Committee Meeting at Bill's Bodacious BBQ in Renton
14	SSSCC Event # 11, Enduro at Tri-City Raceway in Pasco
15	NWR/SCCA – SCCA Regional # 8 at Bremerton
15	SSSCC Event # 12, Autumn Fever at Tri-City Raceway in Pasco
16	WWSCC Council Meeting at Rogue Brewery in Issaquah

Coop's Garage



By Bill Cooper

A Slick Subject

Donna Benson of Tacoma wants to know what oil she should be using in her black M1 "Night Clipper".

Dear Donna

There are as many opinions on what oil to use are there are brands of oil on the market.

I will give you the guidelines I use in my shop regarding types of oil. In addition I am asked frequently whether synthetic is a good idea. I'll hit on that as well.

First I will tell you what not to use. Do not use paraffin based oils in your Miata ever.

The M1 Miata has an overhead cam system that uses hydraulic lash adjusters the internal tolerances of which are very tight. Paraffin as you know will burn. In your engine it creates a film of cooked wax on the walls and moving parts of the head including the HLAs. This can and will cause them to stick rather than move freely making them tick sharply, usually at startup but, frequently, increasingly more and more often in the drive cycle. You can tell when you take the valve cover off of the head if you don't know what has been used. On engines using paraffin based oils a dark brown film covers everything. The bad news is that the valve opening duration can be either stunted or elongated on the offending valve(s) creating uneven air fuel ratios. Stay away from Pennsylvania crude oils in that they tend to have the highest concentrations of wax. Consult me if you want product names.

On the subject of changing to synthetic oil, here is what we rec-

Coop continued next column

Coop continued from previous column

ommend. Do not change to synthetic after the car is five years or more in age. We have found that cars that have been switched after five years of running regular oil frequently develop oil leaks from the front and rear crank and cam seals. Inspection of failed seals in our shop revealed that the rubber returns to pliability when introduced to synthetics but does not regain its elasticity.

Apparently the higher oil pressure in the Miata's engine forces oil past the softened seals. If you want to change to synthetic do so after the 60,120,180k tuneup and the clutch replacement when the seals have been changed. Do not believe the extended mileage claims for synthetics. The oil in your engine carries particles of carbon, dirt and grit which are abrasives. If not filtered out they can cause harm to moving parts and cylinder walls. We don't recommend going over five thousand miles or six months on synthetics.

The oil you use is only as good as the filter you use with it. Change your filter when you change the oil every time. Remember to always make certain the filter you use has a back flow valve in it. That will prevent the oil in the head from draining back into the pan and those noisy dry starts.

Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for grade. Generally you don't require a low viscosity oil in Western Washington where we recommend 10w-30 year round. Some later models suggest 20w-40. This can quiet noise from the HLAs…sometime. Please use the good stuff and change it every three thousand miles or three months whichever comes first. Oil begins to degrade as soon as it is exposed to air. Remember it is a fossil fuel.

As always, I am available to answer questions. Contact me at wcoopster@comcast.net. Maybe yours will be next months question.

Stay somewhere between the lines.

Nationals continued from page 8

will just be returning from Nationals and the Pro Finale (both in Topeka again). At this point, there are almost 1200 people entered for Nationals, including 55 from the Washington area, 14 from Oregon, and four from BC/Alberta. If I don't answer my emails for a week, it's because I'm sleeping! As always, pictures will be posted in the "Chat" section of the WWSCC Forum. Since I'll be taking thousands (no, I'm not kidding) of pictures, please be patient. It will take awhile to get them culled, posted, etc. Gee, I don't know why my company won't let me do it from work! ;-)

If you want to know more about autocross or an event, just email me at autox-rep1@ps-miata.org and I'll reply as soon as I can.

Dieter Beldi at the Packwood National Tour. Photo by Denise Williamson.

Thanks to the following Miata dealers 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
Harbor Freight Tools (Everett store only) (425) 513-6213
Pinnacle Mazda of Renton (425) 271-2700
Russ Dunmire Mazda of Tacoma (253) 473-2440
University Mazda of Seattle (206) 634-1191
Whidbey Island Mazda of Oak Harbor (360) 675-2218

Why This Club is Special

By Randy Umemoto

It must be because of the people.

This Miata Club has been together since 1989. The oldest in the nation. With that comes the privilege of seeing the best of what this club has to offer. It's membership.

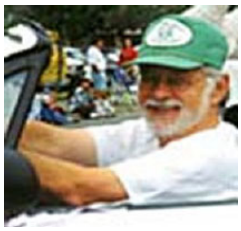
This year we have seen the passing of three members that I know of. Each one I considered my friend and not just a member of this car club.

I read some where that we each take on a little bit of each person we meet. Engaging in conversation and getting to know each other because of these cars we add to our list a little bit of what someone else has experienced.

George Lazur

Rosa and I had the opportunity to know a bit from two of our members that have recently passed on.

George Lazur liked a party, good food, a party, good wine and good company. Did I mention George liked a party? We met George and Gayle when they first moved to Washington with their first Red Miata. These two were Miata crazy, perfect for this club. George was involved with the club to the end and never missed a board meeting or a chance to give his opinion.



Eric Bass

Eric Bass was an interesting person from the beginning. When Eric first joined our merry group we saw him at an event that Chuck Price hosted that went to the Game Preserve at Nisqually. Eric's passenger was an apparatus to help him breath. Eric did not always see eye-to-eye with us but we could agree to disagree and move on. That is what made it fun! This was a guy that loved flying, his family and his faith and, believe it or not, his Miata; and this club ranked right up there as well.

As with George's memorial, Eric's was attended by the PSMC family. So much so, in fact, the pastors at Eric's service made a point to have everyone see how many were in attendance.

We thank you for your contributions to this club and for allowing us to be a part of your life. You will not be forgotten.

Friendship, like the Miata, is a Universal Thing

By Dustin Locke

If you have been in this club for any length of time, you have probably seen Gayle around. She is the one who can usually be found joining in on runs in her Black Mercedes SUV. One might wonder why this lady joining us in an SUV? There is a very good answer to that. Several years back, Gayle's husband, George, was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS). As the disease progressed, it became harder and harder for George to get in and out of a Miata. The day came when they finally had to get a large van to get the wheelchair in and out of, but did that stop them from doing what they loved? Heck no! You could find Gayle and George on nearly every Miata Run tailing in their Van.

Unfortunately, this last January, we sadly lost our very dear friend George.

After some time had passed, Gayle knew that she had to find the exact Miata that she and George last had; it had been one of George's favorite Miatas (they have owned four of them). The car she set out to find would not be easy, and in doing so, I was enlisted to help with the search for the ever rare Crystal Blue LS with an automatic transmission.

Neither Gayle nor I had any luck for months. As we learned, Mazda made roughly 200 of these vehicles during the Crystal Blue's two year run. Then one afternoon I got a call from a very excited Gayle. She had located one of these rare beasts down in Los Angeles. I don't recall ever hearing Gayle sounding so excited. She was like a little girl with a brand new doll. I immediately placed an E-Mail to both the San Diego Miata Club and Southern California Miata Club (SOCALM), and within just two days I had over fifty offers to go inspect the car for Gayle. I was shocked! I was hoping to just get one offer; I never expected what I got. We had a very kind gentleman from SOCALM head out and give the car a good going over. He let me know that the car was immaculate and a great buy in his opinion. That was all Gayle needed. She called the dealership and purchased the car. We then had our next surprise in this saga. A member of SOCALM E-Mailed me and offered to pick the car up and drive it up here to Seattle in exchange for a plane ticket home. If any of you know how pricy it is to ship cars, then you now what a bargain this was! I spoke to Gayle and we accepted his offer. So, Miata enthusiast Bill Wilner started his three day road trip towards Seattle. He arrived at our home late in the evening on Friday the 25th. We all gave the car a going over and through the Bug guts all over it, we could tell that this Miata was something special. After offering Bill to stay with us through his trip and getting to know each other for a little while, Gayle decided to call it a night and head home. The smile on her face as she piloted her new Miata home was worth any amount of money.

Gayle and her New Crystal Blue Miata. Photo submitted by Dustin Locke.

During his stay, Bill was able to take in the sights of our beautiful state as well as participate in the Gathering. Another wonderful event is that Gayle even got her new car in enough time to display it in the Concours de' Elegance at the Gathering. It was a very memorable weekend to say the least. Gayle got to re-connect with Miatas as well as reclaim the car that she and George loved so much, Andrew and I got to know a new Miata friend and we all had a great weekend of friends and driving our little cars!

club bizz

[redacted]

By Dustin Locke, PSMC Prez

Ok . . . . where did August and September go? As I sit typing this, I am noticing the sun setting a bit earlier, the slight chill in the breeze and light layers of clothing on people passing by. Where did our Summer go?

Although we all know that the inevitable Fall and Winter are right around the corner, we still have some time to enjoy our little Roadsters. We have Allan Ohlsen leading us on the 'Oyster Fest Run' and a full weekend of fun with the Tofino Tour put on by Bill Aycock, Don Bojarksi and friends. And for anyone who has not yet participated in a 'Haunted Places Tour,' you don't know what you are missing! Tom and Cindy Smith always go above and beyond in creating an exciting, fun and educational event. That is one not to be missed!

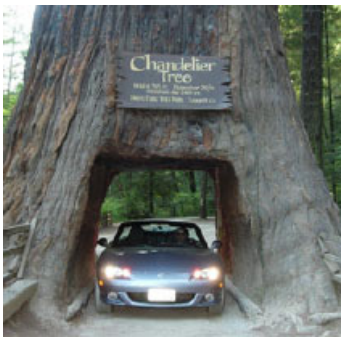
There is another event happening in October that is very dear to me and I would very much like to take a moment to recognize it. On October 7th, club member Gayle Lazur has extended an invitation to PSMC to participate in the ALS Walk to D'Feet. Some of you might not know this, but early on this year we lost a very dear friend and fellow Puget Sound Miata Club member to ALS. George was Gayle's husband and one of the nicest and most enthusiastic folk you could ever want to know. I feel for his loss and for the fact that I didn't get to know this wonderful man better than I did. We can, however, try to beat this terrible affliction. Those of us walking the walk will be doing so in George's memory. If you can at all find time in your schedules to come out and join us, it would be greatly appreciated. Not only will you be showing your club spirit, you will be helping this very noble cause.

Thank you all and I'll see you around the twisties.

Madonna continued from page 5

in the morning wasn't a bad thing at all: I would have hated to drive that section of Hwy 1 between Fort Bragg and Leggett when I was tired and hungry!

By now, though, both Stephanie and I were ready to get home, so it was up and out the door early so we could drive thru the Tree and head north again. I had hopes that we could at least make Cannon Beach by nightfall and by George we did! It was a long, grueling day but we were rewarded by an upgrade at the Hallmark Resort. Due to construction work, they were offering suites at the regular room price. Man, if I hadn't have wanted to get home so bad, I could have stood staying there another night!



Honoring the Politically Incorrect Tradition at the Drive Thru Tree in Leggett, CA. Photo by Stephanie Smith.

The rest of the way home was pretty non-descriptive. We made our way over to I-5 and zipped on home. But man, what a neat road trip it was. The companionship was wonderful, the roads were awesome, the scenery stunning and the top was down the whole time – even when we hit the rainstorm just as we came over the Washington border. I couldn't have asked for better – well, except that we could have squeezed Tom along with us too.

OFFICERS/DIRECTORS WEB COMMITTEE

Chief Officers

Operating	Dustin Locke
Executive	Maury Fugitt
Communications	Bonnie Lohkamp
Financial	Sean McGriff

Directors at Large

Bill Aycock	Andrew Locke	Mike Springer
Charley Drake	Larry Lohkamp	Dennis Thompson
Jim Hightchew	Patrick McSherry	David Whooley
Gayle Lazur	Stuart Sable	

Appointed Positions

Insurance Coordinator	Bonnie Lohkamp
Data Coordinator	Randy Umemoto
Parade Coordinator	Mindy Bohnas
Sounder Editor	Cindy Smith
Webmaster	Eric Bass
Autocross Rep	Denise Williamson

Web Committee

Webmaster/EIO	
Assistant Webmaster	Mindy Bohnas
Classified Ads/Specialty Programmer	John Young
Special Graphics	Mike Springer
Forum Administrator	David Whooley

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 ps-miata.org or send your name, address and check for $30 (annual chapter dues) to:

Puget Sound Miata Club
3901 SW Hanford
Seattle WA 98116

Clue #3: You will find PFC R. W. Moore's company and unit somewhere among the pages of this month's Sounder. Happy Hunting!

2006 Calendar

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

October 2006

6-8	Backroads to Bavaria IX, hosted by CMNW
7	ALS Walk, hosted by Lazur (see page 2)
7	Shelton Oyster Fest Run hosted by Ohlsen (see page 3)
12-15	Return to Tofino, hosted by Aycock, Bojarski and Friends (see page 3)
28	Haunted Places Tour, hosted by Smith & Birman (see page 3)

November 2006

3	First Friday Formal, hosted by Ohlsen (see pg 4)
5	Planning and Board Meeting in the Southend, hosted by PSMC Board (see page 4)
11	Veteran's Day Run, hosted by Smith and Weber (see page 5)
19	Turkey Teaser, hosted by McGriff (see page 4)
25	Tacoma Holiday Parade

December 2006

9	PSMC Holiday Party, hosted by PSMC Board (see page 5)
16	Holiday Light Run, hosted by Locke

Coming in 2007

007: Shaken (-speare) Not Stirred

Coming in 2007

Miatas in Moab III
Return of the MX-5s

image from www.utahmiataclub/miatasinmoab/index.htm

Classifieds

PARTS FOR SALE

NEW BLACK BOOT, convertible top cover. Never been used. Fits 1993 and ? $300.00 Call David Smith at (360) 276-0016.

NEW BLACK SOFT TOP with glass back window for M1 Miata; still in box; asking $625.00. Call Steve Andersen at (425) 432-1051 and leave message.

FOR SALE: 12 Foot Craftsman Rowboat with 4hp Evinrude motor. Has paddles, lifevests, wheels and anchor. Good for river fishing; can fit in the back of a pickup. $1,000 Call Tom at (360) 668-5508.

New Faces

We hope to meet you at an event soon!

By Randy Umemoto

Harry & Marty Thacker	Gig Harbor, WA	06 Red
Jacob Borshard	Enumclaw, WA	90 Mariner Blue
J. Davis Mock	Sammamish,WA	94 Red

Familiar Faces

Try a new Miata Event this year!

Larry & Liane Long	99 Green	6 yrs
Doug & Donna Ruth Simpson	90 Red	4 yrs
Dreana Berggren	97 Red	5 yrs
Barbara Mitten	91 BRG	3 yrs
Jim & Nancy Davis	03 Garnet Red	2 yrs
Ron & Nancy Edmiston	00 Mahogany Mica	6 yrs
Noralyn Danielle	00 Red	3 yrs
Chris & Christine Halstead	02 Silver	1 yr
Mindy & Rory Bohnas	97 Twilight Blue	11 yrs
Marv & Shirley Peterson	93 White	2 yrs
Tom & Cindy Smith	04 Titanium	6 yrs
Kazi & Errol Scott	99 Red	13 yrs
Rosa & Randy Umemoto	00 Mahogany Mica	14 yrs
Helen Kester	00 Mahogany Mica	11 yrs
Moe & Betsy Broom	99 Emerald Mica	1 yr

Cruise continued from page 6

gas?" (Duncan was getting about 1.7 to 2.2 mpg by his instant readout.) "Can I buy your car?" "Open the eyes!" (Meaning pop up the headlights.) And on and on. When you're a small person in a country town, a big parade on a sunny holiday weekend afternoon must be just about the most fun thing a kid can do. South Bend is always a great place for us to visit, and if bringing some cool cars to their parade every year counts as "giving back to the community," well, that's Amuurica, Bunkie!

At the finish line, every parade participant got a free hot dog and a soda, and there was even a free concert by the U.S. Navy Band for those so inclined. Our groups did our usual fade-out at this point, anything after the parade being anti-climactic. Some cars left independently, some Miatas went to the local fish fry, and some Corvettes had a de-briefing at Billy's in Aberdeen to wrap up the afternoon.

Zoom-Zoom.