

MIATA SOUNDER

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



Inside February

2-3

CC VIII

Magical Mystery

West Penn's 3M

4-5

All City Rally

Run for Roses

Madonna

6-7

Hangover Run

Car Cruz-In

8-9

TC Motorsports

LeMay

10-11

Autocross

New/Familiar

Maury

12

Calendar



Second Sloppy Saturday

Saturday, February 11, 2006;
12 Noon at XXX Root Beer in Issaquah

Hosted by Sean McGriff & Tom Smith

Looking for something to do after the Super Bowl while waiting for Spring Training to start? How about joining us for the Second Sloppy Saturday Fun Run?

We are planning to meet around noon at the XXX Root Beer in Issaquah for a quick bite and driver's meeting. After that it will be off into the King County back roads for a tour of the area South of I-90. Your hosts, the McGriffs and the Smiths, will be taking you on some of the routes made famous on Sean and Pam's annual Turkey Teaser fun rally. This is a fun run tailor made to help us shrug off the mid-winter blahs. Who knows, February sometimes has some nice weather that may be conducive to dropping the top, if you have butt warmers!

Hope to see you there. RSVP on the web site or to tomaci@verizon.net.

Red Wine & Chocolate



Sunday, Feb. 19, 2006

Hosted by Tom & Cindy Smith

This year's tour will take in the two Port Townsend wineries and at least two of the Whidbey Island Wineries. Plus we will be getting there via some of the most beautiful back roads of the Olympic Peninsula and Whidbey Island (plus a couple of ferry rides across our gorgeous Puget Sound).

This event runs from 10 AM to 5 PM, so we will need to get an early start. Plan on meeting at the Edmonds Ferry Dock early enough to catch the 8:40 AM run as we will need to be at one of the Port Townsend wineries as soon as they open for business.

After sampling wine at Fair Winds and Sorenson Cellars, we will be catching the 12:45 PM Keystone Ferry to Whidbey Island. Once arriving at Whidbey, we will make time for lunch at the Tye Café before heading down the Island to the Greenbank Farm and Whidbey Island Vineyards and Winery, where the tour will end.

On-line registration is already available. To register, go to www.northsoundwineries.org/home.html and click on the Red Wine and Chocolates button.

Wine & Chocolate continued on page 3

Coming in March:

Cheap N Cheezy VIII

Miata Gras Tu-Tu

Time to Get Serious - Sort of

March 3-5, 2006, Long Beach, WA

Hosted by Ume-Coop-Gun Krewe

We Cheezy event masters have fooled around a lot showing PSMC members that we are basically rubberstamping the same event we did in 1998 - something that the Cheezies have NEVER done, for two reasons.



Cheap N Cheezy continued on Page 2



MIATA SOUNDER

STAFF

Editor Cindy Smith
 Advertising Enos Emexive
 Distribution Randy and Rosa Umemoto
 Mailing List Randy Umemoto
 Photography Contributed

FEATURE WRITERS

Club Events Event Masters
 Event Aftermath Contributors
 Autocross Denise Williamson

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 PI 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

Cheap N Cheezy continued from page 1

1 Cheezy event masters like originality. The original Miata Gras was a GREAT event, everyone had fun. There have been a lot of new members since that time so to them this would still be a new adventure. Cheap N Cheezy events always have room for fine-tuning and revising. HONEST!

2 Cheezies are lazy, but have so many creative juices flowing there's no way Cheezies would totally duplicate an event. HONEST!

If you have not guessed by now, this is your chance to let out that inner adolescent for some fun. Once again, we are offering you the opportunity to celebrate Mardi Gras without flying to New Orleans or Rio - and to celebrate with a bunch of your Miata friends too! Here is the straight information. (We Swear, HONEST!)

1. Get off your duff and make the reservation at The Breakers in beautiful Long Beach, WA at 1-800-219-9833 for March 3rd and 4th. Ok, now you are over the hard part.

2. Call the Cheezies (your hosts):

Rosa & Randy Umemoto 206-938-4562 or carlust@comcast.net,

Wendy & Bill Cooper 425-432-9666 or wcoopster@aol.com,

Evelyn & Bob Gunther 360-765-0786 or bgunthers@aol.com.

Other than just to let us know you are attending there is some last minute information that you will need to know, such as.

1. If you plan to caravan / parade down to Long Beach with us on Friday morning, it would be helpful for you to know where we are departing from and at what time. (Participation in this fun caravan / parade is not mandatory.)

2. Destination of the Friday night dinner. Participation is definitely encouraged. The Friday night dinner is always the kick-off of some serious bizarre happenings. HONEST!

3. The latest scoop on road conditions. Due to the excessive rain-fall, there are some roads that are no longer passable.

4. Create, beg, borrow, rent, or steal a costume. Yes, a costume is mandatory and part of the fun. Please don't make Rosa, Wendy, and Evelyn create a costume for you, it won't be pretty.....for you.

5. Figure out a calorie laden dish to share at the potluck dinner Saturday. The theme is New Orleans, Cajun so **try** to pick your dish accordingly. Remember this is your dinner so you may want to let the Cheezies know what you are bringing so we can try **not** to have all deserts or red beans and rice for dinner. Many of the units at The Breakers have kitchens or



Time to get serious? You've got to be kidding? Photo contributed by Rosa & Randy Umemoto.

Cheap N Cheezy continued next page

upcoming events

Cheap N Cheezy continued from previous page

kitchenettes so think about this when you make your reservations.

Be prepared to drive some country roads that you would never try on your own but are well worth the effort and gas. Rumor has it that by popular demand the Sunday Morning Hangover oh-so-popular Alpha Male and Muffy No-Holds-Barred Go-Cart races might be back.



It's time to quit living vicariously through our Cheezy articles, tales, videos, and legends. Be prepared to step out of your comfort zone, leave your normal mundane self at home, enjoy some wonderful driving events, and a fabulous Saturday night celebration that will leave you sore from laughing and provide you with legends to tell non-Miata friends for the rest of your life. This is the social event that some members have waited years to do again.

This is the last informational article you will see on this event.

If you see another Cheap & Cheezy article in the coming months, don't say to your self I wish I had been there. This event is too choice to miss. HONEST!

Wine & Chocolate continued from page 1

Tickets to the event are \$20.00 plus processing fee and entitles you to a special commemorative glass, a souvenir button and samples of some of Washington's best wines. Make sure you print out your receipt as this will be the only "ticket" you will be issued.



In order to make arrangements for our group with the North Sound Wineries Coordinator, you **must RSVP no later than February 13th** by either the website or emailing Cindy at tomaci@verizon.net.

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

Magical Miata Mystery Tour

Saturday, April 1, 2006
10 AM Driver's Meeting
Don Armeni Boat Ramp
at Alki Beach, Seattle



Image from
www.thebeatlessongs.com/

Hosted by Dale & Regena Weber and Mark & Dannie Brandt

Roll up; Roll up for the Mystery Tour.
Roll up and that's an invitation, roll up for the Mystery Tour.
The Magical Miata Mystery Tour is waiting to take you away.
Waiting to take you away.

Roll up for the Mystery Tour.
Roll up; we've got everything you need, roll up for the Mystery Tour.
Roll up, satisfaction guaranteed, roll up for the Mystery Tour.
The Magical Miata Mystery Tour is hoping to take you away.
Hoping to take you away.

Roll up; roll up for the Mystery Tour.
Roll up, and that's an invitation, roll up for the Mystery Tour.
Roll up for a surprise lunch destination, roll up for the Mystery Tour.
The Magical Miata Mystery Tour is coming to take you away.
Coming to take you away.

Roll up; roll up for the Mystery Tour.
Roll up; at Alki Beach Don Armeni Boat Ramp.
Roll up and ready to go by 10am even if it's damp.
The Magical Miata Mystery Tour is ready to take you away.
Ready to take you away.



West Penn Miata Club Presents: Miata Mountain Mania June 15 - 18, 2006

Miata Owners, sign up today to take part in a fun filled weekend of Miata events and cruises as we explore great roads and the beauty of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Western Maryland and Northern West Virginia.

Registration deadline is March 17, 2006, or the first 100 cars, whichever comes first. So be sure to register today.

For more information, visit our website at www.ps-miata.org or go to www.westpennmiataclub.com/maniamania.html.

upcoming events

The All City Rally XXVI

Sunday, April 23, 2006

Hosted by Corvettes de Olympia

Article by Duncan Johnson



The twenty-sixth annual running of this 75-mile gimmick type Road Rally will be Sunday, April 23, 2006, rain or shine. Start any time between 9:00 AM and noon from Gould Chiropractic Center, 704 South Lilly Rd., Olympia, Wash. Take exit 109 (Martin Way) off Interstate-5, west on Martin Way, left on Lilly Rd., over freeway bridge and left into start. Finish and awards will be at a food-and-drink establishment in the Olympia area.

This is an Open Event for ALL street-legal vehicles. **Current registration and proof of insurance required at the start!** Put them in your car now, thank you very much. Cars also get a brief safety/tech inspection (lights, horn, signals, seat belts, etc.) The rally is sponsored by Corvettes de Olympia, co-sanctioned by Northwest Region, Sports Car Club of America. Many Miata teams have participated (with varying success!) for the last few years. Cars with driver & navigator follow a confusing route around country roads and try to find the answers to obscure questions about things you see along the way (sort of a motorized scavenger hunt). The teams that get the most answers right win trophies at the finish. It's not a show, not a speed event, and uses all paved roads.

The All City Rally is a fun way to get out on the back roads and start the South Sound motorsports "season" with other cool car enthusiasts. There are dash plaques for every car, and dual trophies (driver and navigator) for the top five teams, plus the dreaded Dead Last But Finished award. Great huge piles of door prizes are given away (one ticket with your entry and you may buy lots more.) Your entire entry fee (\$15/car) goes to the Corvettes de Olympia Scholarship Fund for students in the automotive curriculum at South Puget Sound Community College. Last year CdeO awarded \$1500 in scholarships and the college matched the amount!

MORE RALLY INFO? Call the rallymaster Mark Twardzicki at (360) 459-1258 or e-mail MarkTwardzicki@att.net.

Check the web site <http://www.corvettesdeolympia.org> for flyer and optional pre-registration form early in 2006.

Remember

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



Run for the Roses

June 9-11, 2006, Portland, OR

Hosted by Dale & Regena Weber



Portland, Oregon is having its annual Rose Festival in June. That's right, the city of Portland is throwing a party & we are going! Right smack dab in the middle of Portland's Rose Festival is the Portland Rose Cup Races held at the city owned Portland International Raceway. A popular weekend with West Coast racing enthusiasts for more than 40 years, the 2006 Rose Cup Races features Sports Car Club of America's Regional and National Championship point races with more than 400 amateur drivers in varied classes of race cars. One of those drivers is PSMC member Mark Brandt who will be competing in the Sports 2000 class. There will also be a Spec Miata class. Races are held throughout the weekend with the Rose Cup Race starting at 1:40 p.m., Sunday, June 11.

We intend to leave the Seattle area Friday morning, June 9th with our first destination being a visit to the Brandt's Pit area at Portland International Raceway (PIR). In the late afternoon we will check into our hotel. We have selected the Downtown Embassy Suites which is a wonderfully restored old hotel that is situated right in the middle of the Rose Festival activities as our base! The room rate is \$164 for a room with a King Bed. The rate for a room with 2 beds is \$184. Both include a full breakfast. Parking is an additional \$14 - \$22. If you would prefer to stay somewhere else we have a list of alternate lodging that is near a MAX station so you can still enjoy the group festivities. After you RSVP contact us & we will help you with making your room reservations.

Saturday is full of options! Some of us will catch the light rail MAX to PIR for the races. Others will enjoy the Rose Festival Parade at 10am which will be just a few blocks from the hotel. They then can enjoy the Saturday Market, shopping & art museum. In the evening we will regroup for dinner downtown & perhaps enjoy the waterfront village. And you have got to experience Voodoo Donuts in the evening!

Sunday also has its share of options. Some will want to return to PIR for the Rose Cup. Others will want to explore the Rose Festival festivities & downtown attractions before heading home. Some may want to take a detour through part of the Columbia River Gorge on the way home.

For more info, contact the Weber's @ dale.regena@verizon.net or call (425) 422-8430.



Mark Brandt at Portland International Raceways on October 29, 2005. Photo by Carl Hatfield.

upcoming national events

Search for Madonna

May 4-8, 2006

Brought to you by the San Diego Miata Club and Dustin & Andrew Locke

Article by Dustin Locke, 06' Winning Blue

You've heard of it, you've thought of it, now here it is in print.....The Madonna Inn Tour!!!!

As many of you already know, Andrew & I have been working with the San Diego Miata Club to get a joint event between the two clubs going. The event will be the San Diego Miata Club's Annual "Search For Madonna" event. This will be a weekend long event (Saturday - Monday) taking place in San Luis Obispo California. I have participated myself for the past seven years and it is an absolute blast!! The event itself will be May 6th, 7th and 8th.

Andrew and I plan to lead a caravan to the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo, leaving Washington on May 4th. We will take a leisurely three-day drive to reach our final destination. This will give us the opportunity to take in some of Oregon and Northern California while on the way. For the night of May 4th, we will be staying at the Holiday Inn Express in Ashland Oregon. They are offering a rate of \$85-89 dollars for the evening. You may make reservations at (888) 465-4329. The night of May 5th we will be staying at the Capitola Inn in Capitola California. You may make reservations with them at (800) 660-2713. On the morning of the 6th, we will depart the Capitola Inn and take a leisurely Coastal Route and arrive at the Madonna Inn around Noon-1pm (which is right around the time the San Diego folks will be arriving).

As for the Madonna Inn, for those of you who do not know of the



The Antique Car Room. Image from www.madonnainn.com.

Madonna Inn, you are in for a treat / surprise! The Madonna Inn features 10 uniquely Themed Rooms. They are offering the Miata folks a discount. We highly encourage you to start booking your rooms now (arriving May 6th, departing May 8th). The more interesting rooms tend to book early. I encourage you to look at the rooms on their web site and find the



The Caveman Room. Image from www.madonnainn.com.

one that looks the best to you. Part of this event is a huge room tour!!! Please go to: www.madonnainn.com for room information as well as reservation information. Make sure to mention that you are with the Miata Club, doing so will get you a bit of a discount for the Sunday Night rate. Once you have made your reservation, PLEASE, PLEASE E-mail me at sapphirexae@yahoo.com OR call me (425-822-6894) and let me know which room you reserved as well as your names and the year and color of your car. We will composite a list of all Miata Club (SDMC & PSMC) members and what rooms they are in for games as well as for the Room Tour!

We will have several events planned during the course of the weekend. Of course they are all optional and you do not have to do any one thing(s). Here is the schedule as it sits:

Saturday Evening: Some folks will head for an evening tour of the Hearst Castle.

Sunday Morning: A short run to Morrow Bay for the Annual Morrow Bay Car Show.

Sunday Afternoon: There will be two different runs to choose from. We will have a Wine Tour of local Wineries lead by my parents OR a Run through some of the San Luis Obispo Back Roads.



The Madonna Inn. Image from www.madonnainn.com.

Sunday Evening: This will be the Annual Miata Club Dinner. Once dinner is over, we will return to the Madonna Inn for the Annual Room Tour (by far the most entertaining and hilarious event)!!!

Andrew and I hope to see many of you signing up for this event! This truly is a wonderful event and by far and away my most favorite Miata Activity of all time!! Let's show those San Diego folks our PSMC spirit this year!!

Again, please contact me and let me know which rooms you have reserved!!!

event aftermath

Happy New Year!

First Annual Hangover Run

By Sandy McKnight, CRVHGR

A durable and enthusiastic group of drivers made their way to the QFC parking lot in Bothell on January 1, for the very first drive of 2006. Dustin and Andrew put this one together, with the help of Cindy and Tom, who brought tomato juice for everyone, just in case there really was a hangover or two in the crowd. This was a regular run for the San Diego Miata Club, and the guys decided they'd like to continue the tradition at PSMC, so...they have promised to lead this event "every year from here on out!!"

On the big day, Dustin had to stay home sick...no, he didn't have a hangover. He probably would have preferred that! Anyway, Andrew was elevated from assistant to Exalted Leader. The group included 10 Miatas and one Mini OTM. We were joined by Dustin's Mom and Dad - Bruce and Debbye Lewis - and his Aunt Jan and Uncle Dave, all from San Diego.



Who cared if it was cold, damp and grey? After all, we hadn't seen each other all year! Photo by Tom Smith.

Andrew handed out Run Kits, which included a hangover test, a Miata quiz to be completed during the run, and driving instructions. After coffee, introductions, and a lot of visiting, we headed for our cars. It wasn't raining, but Maury and I were the only ones with our top down.

The group left the parking lot in a colorful line and turned north



It was a colorful line too given Cisco's "Kermit Green" Miata. Photo by Tom Smith. (Unfortunately, those who got the Sounder via snail mail will have to check out the colored version of the Sounder on the website!)

toward Cathcart, quickly leaving the suburban traffic behind. We twisted down the canyon road past huge, old growth timber dripping with moss. The snowy mountains were glowing in the sun on the horizon, even though the sky was dark in the valley. Don't you just love that?

Our route took us past a field filled with snow geese and seagulls, and Dave C. swears he saw a swan. Of course, since he was exercising his brand new supercharger, who knows how much he really saw! We played several games of Catchup during the drive, just to keep in practice.

In Monroe, we heard a "slap" behind us as Tom put his top down, and that was contagious. He was followed by Bruce and Debbye, then Joe and Mike, and then Wayne and Courtney. It's just impossible to be in a crowd of Miatas and keep those tops up!

It's so invigorating to cruise with the top down and just drink in all the smells of winter on a cold, rainy day...wood smoke, damp soil, and wet leaves. Isn't that why we all live here?

We took a short break at Fred Meyer, with all our San Diego friends taking advantage of hot chocolate and coffee to shake the chill off. A few of the tops went back up, and we headed for the hills again. Meadow Lake Road was a great place to play Catchup again...Game On...

As we crossed our own route more than once, we wondered if we were lost. Didn't we just go through this intersection from the other direction? Wait a minute, now we're at that same intersection again, coming from yet another direction! Next we turned onto Mero Road, and found ourselves on a great Miata road, twists and curves, up and down, and more curves. Woohoo!!

About five miles from lunch, it started to rain. Just a light rain...nothing we couldn't outrun. By the time we crossed Bunk Foss Creek, it was raining in earnest, but still not hard enough to make us put the top up. When we finally wound into Snohomish in a downpour, we parked and rushed to get the tops up. Now we were soaked!

We ran into Mardini's Restaurant, where we gathered around a long table, ordered lunch and discussed the answers to Dustin and Andrew's Miata quiz. Guess what?! Maury and I won! We felt so-o-o smart... By the way, one of the questions was "How many Miatas have Dustin and Andrew owned?" A big hint was on our driving instructions. There were pictures of several Miatas printed throughout the instructions. Next time you see these guys, ask them how many they have owned. Hint: You can't count them on one hand. Can you count them on two?



One, two, how many more? Photo by Tom Smith.

After a great lunch with old and new friends, we made a mental note to go on the Hangover Run every year. We're all looking forward to 2007! And we hope to see Bruce and Debbye, Dave and Jan again soon.

Thanks, Dustin and Andrew!

event aftermath

North to Seattle

By Bruce Lewis

[Note: Bruce is a long standing member of the San Diego Miata Club and a brand new member of PSMC.]

December 30, 2005 found Debbye and I flying to Seattle to visit our boys, Dustin and Andrew, for a late Christmas. This would mean that we would miss the SDMC Inaugural New Year's Run, but blood is thicker than radiator water.

Seattle! I know that you're thinking that we got rained on, actually it only rained twice during our 8 day stay: once for 5 days and once for 3 days! When Dustin and Andrew moved to the Seattle suburb of Kirkland they, being Miataholics, promptly joined the Puget Sound Miata Club (PSMC). It seems that the PSMC was having a New Year's Run and we were invited. We were going to start the new year driving after all! But wait! We forgot to stow either one of our Miatas in the overhead compartment of our Alaska Airlines jet. What to do? We had hoped to score a ride in Dustin and Andrew's new 2006 NC but as the run leader, Andrew was already in the driver's seat. Cindy and Tom Smith came to our rescue with the loan of their 2000 Emerald Mica (this is when we found out that folks at PSMC are as cool as those at SDMC). Thanks a lot Cindy and Tom!

The run started in, you guessed it, rain. It should be noted that PSMC President Maury Fugitt and his wife, Sandy, went the whole run "top down". This seems to be typical of most folks in this area whose motto is "Rain – no big deal, get over it!" The run started in Bothell and was predominately in the Woodinville and Monroe area in Snohomish County. They say that for every person in Washington there are 10,000 trees, I BELIEVE IT! I've never seen such a collection of trees, mountains, rivers, lakes, quaint villages and great roads. What a great day! We found out that this storm was one of the longest in fifty years but it did not dampen our enthusiasm at all.

We would like to thank the good folks at PSMC who exemplify the fact that no matter where you go, you'll find that Miata people are gracious, fun-loving people. We look forward to seeing the PSMC folks again in May when our two clubs will meet up at the Search for Madonna Run.



The Hangover Gang at Mardini's in Snohomish. Can you spot Tom's car? Photo by Tom Smith.

The O.T. M (Other Than Miata) View of America's Car Club Cruz In

Sponsored by the LeMay Museum

By Duncan Johnson, usually the navigator in Dee Dalke's '99 Silver "Road Dancer"

We got word of the January cruise-in for car clubs which are members of the LeMay Museum and our preparations started right after New Year's Day. We decided to drive a couple of OTM's (Other-Than-Miatas) because our OTM car club (Corvettes de Olympia) also belongs to the LeMay Museum, as does PSMC, but CdeO is a tiny club and needed all the support it could get to turn out for the LeMay event. Well, you don't just drive off with classic OTM's that are crowding 40 years old. The routine was to bust knuckles doing spring preparations (oil change, detailing, general pre-flight check) starting first on "Zatarah" (Dee's '67 Camaro orange convertible,) who was NOT going to the cruz-in, but who was occupying our service area in the front garage (the *warm* garage.) When she was out of the way, she was replaced in turn in the shop by "Joy" ('67 Corvette red roadster) and "Mistress" ('72 Corvette red roadster,) because we would be cruising-in with those two old Corvette ragtops. "This is my hobby, I do this for fun," he muttered over and over while crawling around under the old corks. At least those two OTM's don't mind slogging about in the winter weather; they've seen plenty of it. However, we must admit to packing a bit of foul weather gear in addition to our usual tool bags and show supplies, "just in case."

Come cruz-in day, God smiled on our undertaking because it was dry and sunny all the way to the show venue at the Ehli Turner auction warehouse in Fife (in the industrial area kind of behind the famous Poodle Dog restaurant.) Meanwhile the 26th day of steady rain was indeed falling on the playoff football game up in Seattle at Taxpayers' Stadium, much to the benefit of the local team, and sure to discourage the national audience from ever visiting here, which is fine by us.

But we digress. When we motored in to the show we met Rich Sokso from Corvettes de Olympia and his '54 white Corvette roadster, and all three of our old plastic OTM's were staged immediately next to the main entrance. It made for a nice display and we should have thought to bring that club's banner. Duhhh. There were no PSMC cars unless some other member we didn't recognize was showing their own OTM. A wide variety of other cars cruised in, although the total turnout was only around 35 cars (more people,) tempered we think by a combination of the dicey weather and the football playoff game, which nobody knew would happen until the last minute. You pays your money and you takes your choice. OTM's present ranged from a huge 1916 Overland touring car to a 1930s Packard luxu-cruiser, a Model-A roadster in full rain gear, a selection of classic Chevy models, a '55 Ford pickup with a very sanitary installation of a 4.6 liter dual overhead cam V-8 from a recent Mustang Cobra, a vintage Saab 96 with 3-cylinder 2-stroke engine, and a pack

Cruz-In continued on page 9

The Little Team That Did!

By Neil Bryant, TC Motorsports Sponsor & Willing Gopher

A week ago I took part in a finish that will be with me forever: the 2005 Thunderhill 25-hour endurance race. It is an extreme test of machine and team. It's easy to talk about the machine, a 92 Mazda Miata, proven and capable, especially in the hands of the TC Motorsports team. I was the rookie on the pit crew.



Image from tcmotorsports.net

This year my dealership, Pinnacle Mazda, has been a frequent sponsor of TC Motorsports along with some other drivers in the local club racing circuit.

I learned about the race from Carlo Sparacio of TC Motorsports and Roger Caddell. Roger is Andrew's dad. Andrew, age 17, is known as an up and coming driver, with several wins to his credit.

The dealer principle, Ron Stettner, and I felt that Andrew was ready for the next level of driving so we decided to back his seat on the four-driver team for TC Motorsports. We were confident in our choice as TC Motorsports has a proven track record. The driver lineup of Carlo/Taryn Sparacio, Will Schraeder, and Andrew Caddell looked like a winning combination to us. Add Jon Ament and the rest of the small crew and we had to commit.

Some sponsors might have agreed to help the team financially, maybe even lent some spare parts on consignment. How many would let a busy parts manager take time to go and get their hands dirty in supporting the team's effort? I wanted the team to succeed feeling I had something to offer this shoestring endeavor. I asked Ron Stettner to let me represent Pinnacle.

Getting from my home in Covington, Wash., to Willows, Calif., where the race is held, was an endurance test of its own. I made the trip by car, driving all day to get through two snowstorms along the way. I really like my RX8's Dynamic Stability Control.

The event's practice began on a clear cold Friday morning. As the sun rose over the track I was checking out the Mazdaspeed MX5s. Then we start paddock and hot pit setup. The experienced crewmembers take the lead in our new home for the next 48+ hours.

We settle into the rhythm of the event. Jon A. and Jon Zweiger start to put the pit plan to work and we practice, a lot. Carlo is worried about lap times. The rest of the team is confident and reminds him it is a long race. Nighttime qualifying goes well and we all get a taste of what we are in for. It's dry, thankfully, but cold! We find we need to spend some time on aiming the lights for the long dark shift to come. By dinner the drivers already have their game faces on, and so does our crew chief, even with the camaraderie and joking among everyone. "I don't want to blow it and cost the team" becomes a silent mantra for all eleven of us. (Our two Hospitality hosts were invaluable!)

Saturday morning the crew has early setup to do. There is some last minute tire and brake change practice and more planning. I know my fuel fetch, tool handler and fire bottle duties and I'm ready to do whatever the team needs.

Anticipation is thick in the air. The command "DRIVERS START YOUR ENGINES" is finally heard. As the engines roar to life the event becomes surreal to me. I've been a road race fan for a long time and now I am part of what is arguably the toughest endurance road race on the planet and I have a job to do. Now the crew has our game face on, too. Three of the drivers will have to wait for their turn behind the wheel. They'll be waiting for a few hours. The crew expects to be awake for most if not all of the race. If we are lucky we'll get catnaps or sitting breaks between stops.

We started sixth in class and 28th overall. We ended up at second in class and seventh overall out of 58 cars. We were in first in class for quite a while. We saw several other vehicles meet with rough ends. Once, we came in for a fix on the exhaust and later the driver was backing off to preserve the brakes and tires until she was told "It's ok now, the brakes will last, Drive it like you stole it!" Our closest competitors never let off for a moment. That pushed us to the peak of our abilities. We never lost focus, or heart. We also never got too cocky or over-confident when we were in the lead. We had seen mechanical carnage in equipment, loss of control, and sudden contact taking out better-funded and larger teams.

The size of the team and the amount of financial backing didn't matter once the race began. Many of the teams were large enough for their people to take shifts. They stayed in fancier motor homes and had expensive tool boxes and team uniforms and massive sponsor stickers all over their cars. Our team never considered that we couldn't win. We knew we might get beat, something could break, or a bit of bad luck could put us off the track, but everyone not only believed, but knew that we could win if we stuck to our plan and executed our jobs as well as we could. We expected to be on the podium, even when deliriously tired and disappointed about the exhaust stop. Quitting or letting up was never in our mindset.

Although my aging body ached from old and recent injuries I vowed I would not be the weakest link in this team's chain! The toughness is both physical and mental. I saw Andrew wincing as he got out of the car after his first stint. His leg had cramped up from rubbing on the strap. I learned later all the drivers faced this. The team fed upon each other's commitment to doing what it takes. The individual's strain helped propel the team's drive.

There is an adage I heard from a businessman about commitment, with regard to breakfast. He told me that "The chicken is definitely involved but the pig is truly committed!" I was proud to be among this group. You have to understand that I have not seen that level of commitment since I was in the Coast Guard fighting a huge boat fire.

This team meant to win and those that saw us this year know we mean to come back in 2006 and make the minor adjustments needed to achieve just that. Success happens when opportunity and preparedness meet. Being an old Coastie I am proud and confident in saying this team exemplifies Sempar Paratus. Always Ready, and they're committed!

See ya next year!



LeMay Museum Increases Global Influence

Three automotive professionals with a global reach have been added to the Steering Committee of The Harold E. LeMay Museum.

Grant Lynch, Vice President of International Speedway Corp., and President of Talladega Superspeedway; **Richard Rurak**, Vice President of PPG-Kansai Automotive Finishes of Michigan; and **Bill Warner**, Chairman of the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, joined the Museum's advisory board. They will provide counsel to the CEO and to the Board of Directors.

David Madeira, Museum Chief Executive Officer, said the three bring added insight and influence to AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM.

"All of these individuals are well-respected and well-liked and bring the Museum enthusiasm, expertise and a strong network of influence," Madeira said. "All are passionate car guys and enthusiastic about our vision."

The three join the 19-member Steering Committee, which includes a wide spectrum of automotive professionals and car enthusiasts.

Grant Lynch: Lynch shares the Museum's interest in making Puget Sound a destination for auto-tourism. He is leading Inter-

Global Influence continued on next column

Cruz-In continued from page 7

of semi-late-model Pontiacs from Jet City Fieros. It's good to see some newer cars like the Fieros and their newer people at cruising events, and that speaks well for the future of the hobby. Had it not been for the Fieros, "Mistress" would have been the youngest car present, a total reversal of her usual role at recent shows. "America's Car Museum" celebrates "America's love affair with the automobile" and this cruise-in had the right variety of both machinery and people in a compact area to make that come to life.

The auction warehouse had been very nicely fixed up for the

Cruz-In continued next column



Rich Sokso's 1954 Corvette roadster, winner of People's Choice at the LeMay Cruz-In. Photo by Duncan Johnson.

Global Influence continued from previous column.

national Speedway Corporation's efforts to build a new race-track in Bremerton. Planned collaboration with the Museum will attract well-over 1 million visitors annually. Grant has extensive contacts in the sports car, NASCAR and motorcycle racing communities. Lynch came to Talladega Superspeedway after 11 years with R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., where he managed the company's involvement in NASCAR Winston Cup racing.

Richard Rurak: Rurak has a long history working with the automotive industry across the globe. He started working with PPG Industries in 1977 and has held several positions for the company in Tokyo and Paris. He has been involved with Chrysler Corp. in the Touring Car Series and PPG Neon challenge. He has gone to racing school twice and competed in four PPG Neon Celebrity races.

Bill Warner: Warner built the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance into one of America's top classic car events since its founding in 1996. The event has raised \$1.5 million for Community Hospice and Spina Bifida. He also has a strong involvement in automotive racing – he was inducted in 2003 into the Road Racing Driver's Club - and in automotive photo-journalism, with work in Road & Track, Car and Driver, Autoweek and other publications.

Cruz-In continued from previous column

event, and there was a big socializing area with tables, chairs, plentiful heat (hurrah!) and nice rest rooms. Also food and drink of course. As we were milling about, who should we meet but old friends M. & M. Bartholomew, who were showing their new (to them) 1954 Chrysler New Yorker Deluxe sedan ("Yeah, it's got a hemi.") Now, there is a rolling sculpture in heavy metal from the Eisenhower days, when bankers drove Chryslers, "business casual" meant you had taken off your fedora hat, and all was right with the world. It also shows us where current Daimler-Chrysler styling has its roots! Anyhow, our little surprise get-together was exactly the kind of fun adventure that makes us love this hobby and keep coming back for more. Dinner was catered by Warthog Barbecue nearby, and while we were eating there were drawings for door prizes, donated by Griot's Garage and also Same Day Scratch & Dent Repair. We didn't score anything, and then the announcer forgot to mention both CdeO and PSMC when acknowledging member clubs present, although both clubs were listed as museum members in the pre-event publicity. Go figure. The Corvette gang bounced back big time when Rich's '54 Corvette took home the People's Choice award, a nice crystal style trophy. He's put a lot of effort into that OTM, and it paid off. As for us, we had an excellent ride home under a full moon, our old OTMs rumbling along quite contentedly.

Postscript: This was billed as the first annual LeMay member clubs' Cruz-In, and we have hatched an idea to make it better in future iterations. Suppose it were an "invitational" event and the museum encouraged each member club to stage a specific

Cruz-in continued on page 12

At the BEAC Banquet

Photos by Denise Williamson



Left: No one recognized Enrique Garcia when he showed up in a suit & tie!

Below: Enrique is presented a Core Worker award by Glen Hernandez.



Above: Glen Hernandez presents Alan Dahl with the Common Car Trophy while (below) Dieter Beldi is presented with a Core Worker Award.



New Faces

We hope to meet you at an event soon!

By Randy Umemoto



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Jim Conner | Everett, WA | 92 Red |
| Bruce & Debbye Lewis | Jamul, CA | 99 Sapphire |
| Steph & Janice Vollmer | Kent, WA | 00 White |
| Marie Schnieder & Philip Mizel | Olympia, WA | 06 Galaxy Gray |

Familiar Faces

Try a new Miata Event this year!

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Enrique Garcia | 95 Montego Blue | 4 yrs |
| Bill and Kathy Hughes | 92 Silver | 11 yrs |
| Chris and Gail Wilkinson | 00 Emerald Mica | 5 yrs |
| David & Karen Whooley | 97 Marina Green | 2 yrs |
| Mike Koone and Happy Leonard | 06 Marble White | 11 yrs |
| Maury and Sandy Fugitt | 96 Red | 2 yrs |
| Bert and Rhonda Paul | 01 Red | 3 yrs |
| Chris Stollery | 94 Black | 3 yrs |
| Kim Shellabarger | 99 Black | 6 yrs |
| Vic Snyder | 91 BRG | 6 yrs |
| Ron and Kathy Case | 93 Black | 4 yrs |
| Dennis & Nellie Butterfield | 90 White | 1 yr |
| James Hightchew | 97 Black | 7 yrs |
| David Day | 91 White | 6 yrs |
| Thomas & Cindy Millar | 01 BRG | 1 yr |

February Autocross

For details see wwscc.org

- 7 BSCC Monthly Meeting; Round Table Pizza in Gig Harbor
- 12 TS-WWSC Slush #2, Conesicles at Bremerton
- 14 NWR/SCCA Solo Committee Meeting; Red House in Renton
- 20 WWSC Council Meeting; Rogue Brewery in Issaquah
- 26 ACE-WWSC Slush #3, Arse Chapping Extraganza, Bremerton

club bizz

Zoomin' with the Prez

By Maury Fugitt

Life is good. This weekend the Seahawks ended a 21 year hiatus from a playoff victory, a period of 27 consecutive days of rain ended, and I got to put the top down and go for an extended top-down drive!



Not that this was the first top-down drive of the year, the Hang-Over run on January 1st offered everyone a three hour window of rain-free driving. Sandy and I took advantage of this and went on the entire run top-down, even though it ended in a Snohomish downpour! Now if the Miata Gods will just smile on the Walk Softly & Carry a Big Stick II run, life will continue to be good.

By this time the second of two Planning meetings will have been conducted with even more Miata fun added to our already crowded PSMC Calendar. That doesn't mean that you can't add additional events. Check out the revised Calendar online, find an empty day, plan an event and let me know. Since we all have OTM lives, it is doubtful that any of us will be able or want to attend all of the PSMC Miata events. The more types and variety of events the better!

Of events already scheduled, Detailing Day has become one of the most attended and popular events of the year. This event would not be possible without the huge contribution from Coop's Miata and the tireless volunteers (especially the buffer guys!). Some of you have already stepped up and volunteered for various jobs. This is a great time to give a little back to the club that provides so much for you to do the rest of the year. You don't have to be a buffer guy; there are many other less demanding jobs such as Walmart greeter, parking director or chef! Send me an e-mail and let me know what talents you possess or want to learn, as on-the-job buffer training is always available!

Sandy and I will be going to the Topless Sun Run put on by the Okanogan Valley Miata Club in Kelowna BC over the Memorial Day weekend; May 25th to May 28th. We will be leaving Thursday Afternoon (3:00ish) from Monroe and spending the night in Pateros in order to assure we arrive well-rested and ready to go at Kelowna early Friday afternoon. We are inviting anyone else who can escape early Thursday May 24th to join us. We will be staying right on Lake Pateros at the Lake Pateros Motor Inn (see www.lakepaterosmotorinn.com) and having a killer Mexican dinner in Brewster at Camperos Mexican Restaurant. As of the date I wrote this, the Okanogan Valley Miata Club website is being moved and no registration information was available. Let me know if any of you are interested in joining us and I will provide as much updated information as I have.

Keep the hammer down and the shinny side up!

Zoom Zoom!



OFFICERS/DIRECTORS WEB COMMITTEE

CHIEF OFFICERS

Operating _____ Maury Fugitt
Executive _____ Cindy Smith
Communications _____ Bonnie Lohkamp
Financial _____ Sean McGriff

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Bill Aycock George Lazur Randy Umemoto
Eric Bass Patrick McSherry Dave Whooley
Mindy Bohnas Stuart Sabel Denise Williamson
Charley Drake Tom Smith

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Events Coordinator _____ Allan Ohlsen
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 _____ Eric Bass
Assistant Webmaster _____ Mindy Bohnas
Classified Ads/Specialty Programmer _____ John Young
Special Graphics _____ Mike Springer
Forum Administrator _____ David Whooley
Specialty Programmer _____ Nathan Allan
Website Advisor _____ Allan Ohlsen
Programmer _____ Josh Smith

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

2006 Calendar

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

February 2006

- 11 Second Sloppy Saturday, hosted by Smith & McGriff (see page 1)
- 19 Red Wine and Chocolate Tour, hosted by Smith (see page 1)



March 2006

- 3-5 Cheap n Cheezy VIII at Long Beach, hosted by Ume-Coop-Gun Krewe (see pages 1-3)
- 24-25 Miata Performance Driving School at Thunderhill Sports Park, Willows CA

April 2006

- 1 Magical Miata Mystical Tour, hosted by Weber & Brandt (see page 3)
- 7 First Friday Formal, hosted by Springer
- 8 PSMC Nominating Meeting (Tentative), hosted by PSMC Board
- 23 All City Rallye XXVI, sponsored by CdeO and NW Region SCCA (see page 4)
- 29 Detailing Day, hosted by some very special volunteers

May 2006

- 3-8 Search for Madonna Tour, hosted by Lewis-Locke (see page 5)
- 13 Sequim Parade
- 19-21 Icicle Creek Tour/Leavenworth/Play, hosted by Mudie
- 25-18 Kelowna Topless Sun Run B.C. Canada, hosted by OVMC; caravan organized by Fugitt/McKnight

June 2006

- 3 Shelton Parade
- 9-11 Portland Rose Cup Run, hosted by Weber (see page 4)
- 15-18 Miata Mountain Mania, hosted by WestPenn Miata Club
- 17 PSMC Elections, hosted by PSMC Board
- 24 Port Orchard Parade
- 30-2 Historics, hosted by Springer

July 2006

- 4 Kingston Fourth of July Parade
- 8 Drive-in Movie Run, hosted by Lewis-Locke
- 27-30 Pinot Noir Wine Tour in North Central OR, hosted by Houghton & Hayes/Jaeger
- 30 Chinatown Parade
- 30 PSMC Miatacross (Tentative Date)

August 2006

- 12 Sundown/Twilight Run, hosted by Lewis-Locke
- 19 Dog Day Afternoon, hosted by Mudie
- 20 Run Around the Bases II, Double Play, hosted by Dennis Thompson & Joanie Hughes
- 26 LeMay Car Show, hosted by Springer
- 27 PSMC Gathering, hosted by PSMC Board

September 2006

- 3 South Bend Labor Day Parade
- 9 Mukilteo Parade
- 10 Run Round Rainier IV, hosted by Sabel
- 23 Leavenworth Parade
- 24 North Cascade Hwy Run, hosted by McGranaghan

October 2006

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

November 2006

- 3 First Friday Formal, hosted by Ohlsen
- 5 Planning and Board Meeting in the Southend, hosted by PSMC Board
- 11 Veteran's Remembrance Run, hosted by Smith
- 19 Turkey Teaser, hosted by McGriff
- 25 Tacoma Holiday Parade

December 2006

- 9 PSMC Holiday Party, hosted by PSMC Board
- 16 Holiday Light Run, hosted by Lewis-Locke

Cruz-In continued from page 9

display of what they are all about. This year CdeO bumbled into showing a nice selection of the first three generations of the Corvette as it evolved, but that club could do a lot better with some planning. So could PSMC and the other member clubs. For instance, if there are 60 indoor spaces available and there are 20 member clubs, send each club special passes for 3 spaces inside the building; request they arrive with a display of their three best cars. (The overflow cars would display outside. If somebody chooses not to show, the extra spaces could go to other clubs for bigger displays.) We remember seeing something like this in a mall show many years ago, where owners of three C1 Corvettes (1953-62 models) made a restoration display with "before" (grubby jalopy,) "during" (disassembled chassis,) and "after" (fully restored) Corvettes. That had a lot of visual and technical appeal. PSMC has such a huge variety of Miatas of all ages and styles that we could make up any number of interesting Miata displays: all generations, assorted performance models, special editions, race cars, whatever. What do *you* think PSMC might do along those lines for next winter's LeMay Cruz-In? We could practice by taking a squadron of Miatas to the LeMay Museum annual open house car show next August. Zoom-zoom.