

# Miata Sounder



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

## Happy Birthday, USA & Miata!

### Upcoming Events

July 3-5

**Historics Races** at Pacific Raceways in Auburn. See page 3 for details.

July 4

**Kingston Parade**, meet at 10:30 a.m. starts at noon.

July 11

**Mt. Ranier Scenic RR Tour**, hosted by Bill Bell and Mindy Bohnas; tour of Pierce County backroads and ride the historic Mt. Ranier rail! See p.4 for more!

July 16 & 17

**Two Lanes in Two Days**, on backroads of Oregon, Join this fun drive to hook up with the Explore Oregon Tour or take a leisurely drive back to Puget Sound. See p. 4 for details!

July 18

**Whidbey Island Tour**, features 70 miles of spotting wildlife and eagles flying above! See page 3 for details!

July 21

**Eat & Greet** with Bill Bell at Burgermaster in Everett, 6 p.m.; RSVP on the website for details!

They're in driveways around the world...debuting for the first time ever at the Toronto, Canada, Auto Show in February 1989. (Nathan Allen's 1990 Red)



They're in rallies around Washington... originally had the first public road test in Honolulu, Hawaii. (Charlotte Fellers' 1990 White)

They're in parades all over the Puget Sound...Miata is a High German word meaning 'reward' or 'prize'.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MIATA--20 years and still going strong!**  
(Keith Newsom's 1990 Blue)



(Source: Toronto Star, March 4, 1989)

## Great Northwest Gathering slated Aug. 8

**Hosts: PSMC Board**

**RSVP: [www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org)**

Do you know someone who has a Miata but does not belong to the club? Why not invite them to the 2009 Great Northwest Gathering and let them see how much fun they can have with their cars!

This year's event takes place August 8 at Coop's Miata in Maple Valley. The day's

events will include a few fun and games with valuable prizes awarded to the winners, the concours'd elegance car show for stock and aftermarket-enhanced cars, and of course, lunch. Lunch this year will feature freshly cooked London Broil steaks or fresh grilled chicken, baked

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## MIATA SOUNDER

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## 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**  
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## ADVERTISING

Classified - member.....free  
 Classified - nonmember/business ..... \$20.00  
 1 col by 2 1/2 inches-members/one-time only.....\$15  
 1 col by 2 1/2 inches-nonmembers/one-time only....\$20  
 1 col by 2 1/2 inches-annual/members.....\$10 month  
 1 col by 2 1/2 inches-annual/nonmembers.....\$15 month  
 1/4 page ..... \$35.00  
 1/2 page ..... \$65.00

## LEGAL STUFF

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**[pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://pugetsoundmiataclub.org)**

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

## memories

# Were you around when. . .

*(Editor's Note: We're celebrating our first 20 years! Read on for interesting memories from the past!)*

### From 2000:

--The PSMC welcomed the new millenium with a 10th anniversary holiday party, recognizing our founding members and showcasing the 10th Anniversary Miata. "We salute all of you who are here in this time and place. You are the club, what it was, is, and what it will be." (President Karen Read, January 2000). A special guest was Vince Tidwell, present of the National Miata Club of America.

--The first Northwest Rally Council's event drew 3 Miatas, despite a "dark and stormy night!" The rallye featured mostly incorrect instructions, but it was fun all the same.

--A Manly Man Drive in June found some "manly men" in Roslyn and Tri-Cities driving in the triple digits and soaking up 80+ degree weather.

--A private tour of Coulee Dam was a highlight of the Dam Aftershocks tour in June that also included a fireworks display. 22 Miatas made the trek.

--John Hewitt took over the President's post, with Karen Read shifting to the CEO position.

--The Haywire Hoot took place Sept. 30 and featured 18 cars on an 84-mile "blue roads" trek from Olympia to Centralia for lunch. Okay, one car dropped out at the antique mall!

--The annual Holiday Party was held at the Holiday Inn Select in Renton and featured a live band. Attendance numbers not available.

### From 2001:

--The Fifth version of Cheap n Cheezy featured a "Spy vs. Spy" theme and the destination was Port Townsend. No other details appear to be available.

--The club had more than 40 events on its calendar for 2001 including the "Ashes to Ashes Mystery Tour" in September and the River Raft Run in May.

--A Mall to Mall Tour in January featured 9 Miatas. Alderwood Mall was closed, but drivers quickly progressed to Northgate Mall, picked up 3 more cars and headed to Bellevue Square, then on to Southcenter Mall, a detour to the site of the 2001 Miatafest, and then on to the Tacoma Mall. Believe it or not, this was not the end of the tour or "joiners." The Kitsap Mall in Silverdale closed out the day, with three additional cars added to the mix!

--The Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival Tour resulted in the spotting of 8 bald eagles and 30 Miatas!

--New Members' Day was held in March and attracted 35 new and old Miatas. It started at Azteca in Bellevue and ended at Boehm's Chocolates in Issaquah.

--The Winthrop "No Tour Tour" commenced in July with a drive over the North Cascades, a picnic lunch at Newhalem, and an overnight at the River Run Inn in Winthrop. The next day's route went to the ghost town of Molson, Grand Coulee, or a series of lakes in the area.

--The first-ever MiataCross was held July 1 and proved to be a great fundraiser for PSMC, netting a profit of more than \$3000! In all 180 drivers took four runs each--that's 720 total runs! Great work!

# Historics Races July 4 weekend

**Host: Mike Springer**

**Contact: 253-468-5291**

**(weekends & evenings)**

This year, the Society of Vintage Racing Enthusiasts (SOVREN) celebrates it's 22nd Anniversary with racing July 3-5. Vintage cars race in eight classes ranging from small bore formula V's to an exhibition class which has included cars like the 1971 Tyrell 004, winner of the world championship that year. Also on hand will be rare beauties like a Ferrari

512M. The featured car will be the Chevrolet, celebrating it's 100th Anniversary. The Historics Race is considered the premier vintage car race in the Northwest. This year's race proceeds will benefit Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center.

By now, you should have your tickets purchased. If you decide at the last minute to go, contact the host for details. You can RSVP on the website but may still need to visit with Mike about other facets of the event.

# Whidbey Island Tour slated for July 18

**When: July 18, 2009, 11 a.m.**

**Hosts: Frank Shriver & Carol Kus  
and Tom & Cindy Millar**

**Contact: Millars, 206-390-3469**

**OR Shriver/Kuz, 360-678-1273**

Explore the grandeur of Whidbey Island as you join Frank Shriver, Carol Kus and Tom & Cindy Millar on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, for this great island ride! Our journey will begin at the Park & Ride located in Clinton, as most people will be arriving on the Mukilteo-Clinton ferry. It is suggested that you fuel your Miata prior to boarding the ferry because gas prices on Whidbey are running \$.20 to \$.30/ gallon higher than on the mainland. The ferry's run every ½ hour and the crossing is

about 15 minutes. Please plan on arriving in Mukilteo a few minutes after 10:00 AM to catch the 10:30 boat. We will have a driver's meeting at 11:00 and will leave the Park and Ride at 11:15.

Whidbey Island is 62 miles long and just over 1.5 miles wide at Greenbank in Central Whidbey.

We will be traveling on roads lesser driven on our trek to North Whidbey. You will have the opportunity to see the impressive beauty of the north end of Puget Sound, Admiralty Inlet, Saratoga Passage, Useless Bay, Holmes Harbor, Penn Cove (Home of the Penn Cove mussel farm) as well as narrow tree lined roads.

Enjoying sights of wild life will also be a part of the drive. There are in excess of 70 nesting pair of bald eagles living on Whidbey and our chances are good to see this magnificent bird in its natural habitat. Spotting deer grazing should be common throughout the day. Hawks are very common and are often seen all over the island. The island is also home to coyotes.

Although the drive is still under construction, the tentative plans are to stop at Fort Casey State Park to observe the WWI and WWII gun emplacements which protected Washington from enemy ships and submarines. Our travels will also take us past/through Clinton, Langley, Freeland, Greenbank and past Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in Oak Harbor. Near the end of our journey we will enjoy the spectacular Deception Pass, which if you haven't seen it before is very dramatic and inspiring.

Upon the completion of the tour we will meet at Frank and Carol's home, located 2 miles North of Greenbank, to enjoy burgers and hot dogs as well as to enjoy the sunset and view of Admiralty Inlet.

As mentioned earlier, this wonderful ride is still under construction and there will be more specifics to follow as the date draws near.



*Beautiful scenery, like this cool building along the waterfront, abounds on Whidbey Island, where you will get to see many less-traveled roads and some bald eagle nests along the way.*

*Photo by Frank Shriver*

## upcoming events

# Two Lanes in Oregon in two days

**When: July 16 & 17**

**Why: Hook up with the Explore Oregon Tour**

**Hosts: Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson**

**Contact: 253-845-2424 OR**

by Dee Dahlke [toadhalla@yahoo.com](mailto:toadhalla@yahoo.com)

For those who are already registered with the Willamette Valley Miata Club to attend **Explore Oregon** (<http://oregonmx5.com/>) we are planning a leisurely drive to that event *totally avoiding freeways* and seeing points of interest as we go. This is not a speed run. Here's the plan:

### Thursday – July 16

Leave our house (Puyallup, Wash.) in early morning and take the elusive two-laners south to Longview and cross the Columbia River there. Then we'll head east on US 30 toward Portland, with a quick hill climb up Cornelius Pass Rd. Lunch

will be at the Cornelius Pass Roadhouse. Thence, we'll wind our way to Hillsboro, and twist through the hills to Newberg. Following that, we'll cut west and explore the funky town of Carlton, ending the day's run at McMinnville. Dinner will be at the Golden Valley Brewpub or other interesting venue. Choose a hotel in McMinnville for your overnight stay (your choice of hotel).

Possible meet-up points to join this run would be Puyallup, Yelm, Centralia, or further south. What's convenient for you? Let us know and we'll work with you!

### Friday, July 17

Leave McMinnville after breakfast and cruise east to Newberg, then follow routes 219 and 214 east and south to Woodburn, Mount Angel (home of the Oktoberfest) and Silverton (lunch stop at whatever looks interesting). Continue past the Oregon Garden (stop?) and Silver Falls State Park (photo op?) then pick up Route 22 through the mountains to Sisters and the Miata meet.

If you are NOT attending Explore Oregon (it was full when you wanted to sign up), you're welcome to join us for these two days and head elsewhere on your own.

# All aboard! Scenic RR drive loading up!

**Date: July 11, 2009**

**Starts At: The Old Cannery, Sumner**

**Hosts: Bill Bell 425-420-6125; Mindy Bohnas 360-895-0931**

By Mindy Bohnas

Looking for a fun summer outing? Follow us to the Mt Rainier Scenic Railroad (<http://www.mrsr.com/index.html>) in Mineral, WA on July 11. The train ride will last a little over 2 hours and includes a 15-mile ride with a stop at an area called Divide, WA. We will then back up to one of the largest wooden trestles in the Northwest. The flowers of the foothills will be blooming and with luck it should be a clear day to catch glimpses of Mount Rainier.

For our first Miata tour to this train ride, Bill and I have decided to go with the BBQ train ride rather than just the regular excursion. The BBQ chef will be serving up a hearty buffet of BBQ ribs, chicken, salads, BBQ beans, biscuits, & mouth watering desserts.

The first pre-run was completed on June 6, so unless we decide to make changes, the starting point of this tour will be at The Old Cannery in Sumner. (13608-A Valley Ave E, Sumner, Wa 98390) Start time is not confirmed yet but we will probably be leaving the park-

ing lot at noon so anyone who wants to get coffee or use the restrooms inside should be there by 11:30 or so in order to be at their car ready for an 11:45 drivers meeting. There is a local coffee stand right in the parking lot and if you want to get a snack before the drive, you can stop in at one of several eateries in Sumner prior to arrival at the starting point.

**Train reservations are first come first serve. The train ride with meal will sell out fast so make your train reservations ASAP! Then use the RSVP link on the website or call one of the phone numbers below to let us know you are coming.**

**Reservation information for the 2:30 PM Departure - Train Ride and BBQ Meal:**

Fares: General (13-61) \$43.00

Senior (62+) \$40.00

Military \$40.00

Youth (4-12)\$35.00

Child (3 and under) Free

MRSR welcomes all type of reservation sales: Mail,

*continued on page 5*

## upcoming events

# Great chance to ride the train!

*continued from page 4*

Telephone, Ticket Window & Online, Wednesday-Sunday from 10am - 5pm. Call 1-888-STEAM-11 (1-888-783-2611)

**\*\* Please note: All tickets are non refundable.** You may exchange your tickets for another train within 12 months of purchase. There will be a small change fee assessed for date changes. **There is a 10% processing fee on telephone and online ticket purchases.** Fee is imposed from ticket system provider. MRSR does not have control over processing fees.

## New ad rates set for Sounder

At the June board meeting, the PSMC board set new advertising rates for the Sounder and the website. The hope is to better meet the needs of our potential advertisers.

The old rates for quarter-page and half-page ads will remain the same, at \$35 and \$65, respectively. An additional rate structure for a "business card" size was established. The new rate will be \$20 for a one-time ad for non-members, or \$15 for an ad running monthly for a year, billed quarterly for non-members. Members who want to put a "business card" sized ad in the Sounder will get a rate of \$15 for a one-time-only ad and \$10 for an ad that runs for a year, billed quarterly.

The board also approved a request from the Sounder editor that advertisements must be print-ready upon submission to save time setting up ads.

Anyone who wants to link to the PSMC website can do so for a flat rate of \$360 per year, billed quarterly. You can check details at [www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org) or talk to a board member for details. Or, if you are interested in an ad for the Sounder, email [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com).



*Miata Top Bob's*

**Expert Miata Soft Top Replacement**

**Save \$600 or more on plastic window tops,**

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

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

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

Email: [bgunthers@aol.com](mailto:bgunthers@aol.com)

If the BBQ tickets sell out, or if you just don't want to eat BBQ, you can make a regular excursion reservation instead, but we aren't sure if you will be able to sit with the BBQ group. We're sure the ride will be fun for everyone whether you decide to have BBQ or not.

Please check the website for the latest information on finalized starting place, time and other information.



*This idyllic lake scene is just one of many beautiful scenes along the Scenic Railroad Tour.*

*Photo by Mindy Bohnas*

## Pre-register for Gathering

*continued from page 1*

beans, a salad, rolls and dessert. The day will close with social time and throughout the day, door prizes will be awarded. Festivities begin at 10 a.m. with lunch served at noon. Games will commence at 11 a.m.

Cost this year will be \$15 for each car and driver and \$10 for each passenger. If you pre-register by mailing in your money by August 2, the cost for driver and passenger is \$20, saving \$5. Mail your checks and food choice (London broil or chicken) **BEFORE August 2** to Charlotte Fellers, 1800 4<sup>th</sup> St, NE, Auburn, WA 98002. You also need to RSVP on the website at [www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org). After August 2, you will need to pay full price at the gate.

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

**From the South:** I-5 north; take the North Bend/Auburn, Hwy 18 Exit; MapleValley/Renton Exit; Left over the overpass on SE 231st St; Up the hill to SE 210th St (Don't turn right); Go left into Coop's

## upcoming events

# Olympic Peninsula tour takes off October 3 & 4

**Hosts: Tom & Cindy Millar**

**Date: October 3 & 4, 2009**

**Contact: 206-390-3469**

*by Tom Millar*

If you missed the 2008 version of the Olympic Peninsula Tour, you won't want to take a chance on registering late this year. The tour, hosted by Tom and Cindy Millar, proved to be one of the few overnight excursions held in 2008 and was a great time for all who went. Attracting about 15 cars, this tour is sure to bring back some "second-timers" and hopefully, some new first-time adventurers this year.

The most breathtaking scenery occurs on this drive when the cars pull up alongside the Pacific Ocean and spend the night at the Pacific Beach Hotel and Resort. Because it's late fall, the drive is likely to include some beautiful fall colors to enjoy and with any luck, a lack of the downpour endured a year ago.

This pristine tour will begin at 7 Cedar's Casino in Sequim with lunch on or before 11:30 a.m. There will be three departure points from around the Puget Sound: Hawk's Prairie Casino and Restaurant in Lacey; Edmonds Ferry Terminal; and the Keystone Ferry Terminal on Whidbey Island. For further details on these separate departure points and times, contact Tom Millar at 206-390-3469.

Specific tour plans on the first day are still under construction as the hosts have not yet completed the pre-ride. However, the tour will proceed around the beautiful Lake Crescent and on to Forks, even more popular with the release of the book series and the movie about the area, *Twilight*. Driving along the Pacific coast, traveling through Kalalock and Quinalt, the tour will deviate once again from Highway 101 onto the Moclips Highway, arriving at Pacific Beach Motel & Conference Center in time to check in, enjoy dinner and continue our grand time.

The Pacific Beach Motel & Conference Center is a Navy recreational facility, operated out of Naval Station Puget Sound in Everett. Tom Millar, a retired Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander, will be your host at the Navy facility. This facility was once an active Naval station, monitoring submarine activities along the Pacific coast. Today, it is a full service recreational

facility featuring several motel-like rooms and "Presidential Suites", with pricing ranging from \$50 - \$87 per night. It also features a 4-lane bowling alley that costs just \$2.75 per person, including rental of shoes! A nice walking trail leads to the Pacific Ocean, which is about a half-mile walk from the front door of the hotel. The Sandpiper Restaurant features excellent breakfasts and dinners and a full-service bar. A hot tub that easily fits 15 is open until 10 p.m. (and it's "hot" not "lukewarm"! ). This fabulous resort even has a free gathering area for our group to meet up after a long day of driving and sightseeing.

Tour participants will need to make their own reservations by calling 1-888-463-6697, referencing Tom Millar, LCDR (ret.), USCGR and the Puget Sound Miata Club. This is the way this works: When you make a reservation, your credit card will be charged for the stay. However, you have up until 10 days before the date of arrival to cancel the reservation and receive a credit to your card. A block of 15 rooms has been reserved for our party. The Navy also has a web site at: <http://www.navylifepnw.com/site/68/Pacific-Beach.aspx>. Following dinner, there is a party room that we can use for an after-dinner gathering.

Following breakfast the next day, the tour will continue along the coast for awhile and then inland where we will visit another winery, West Port Winery, and enjoy some twisty roads on our way back home.

**For Sale:** 1990 Red Miata, good condition. Has



a dent in the right front panel. Stored under cover most of the time. New shocks last year; new soft top and tires. \$3000 or add the hard top and will bundle for \$4000.



Contact Nathan at 1-877-753-9123 or on the web at [www.swan-towninn.com](http://www.swan-towninn.com).

just for fun

# Dispatch from the Middle East

*(Editor's Note: This is second in a series of dispatches posted directly to us from A.J. McGrahanan of Lakewood, who was deployed in April to Afghanistan with his National Guard unit based near Ft. Lewis. He has offered to share his insights from the front lines of the war. He left his wife Vickie at home to take care of the dog and the Miata while he is away.)*

Greetings from Afghanistan,

12 June 2009

This is the second, hopefully in a series of correspondence from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, from your fellow Puget Sound Miata Club member A.J. McGranaghan.

Well I've been here over two month now, with eight months remaining. Check that, seven and a half months remaining if

I ever embarrassed... We all got a good laugh out of my lame attempt to try out my rudimentary Spanish.

Another incident that I found peculiar was when I suddenly awoke a few weeks back from a startling dream with a long list of streaming numbers running through my mind. One of my jobs here in Afghanistan is the accountability of about 130 vehicles located throughout the eastern portion of Afghanistan. Keeping track of these vehicles is like playing a "shell game" with these vehicles constantly moving from one F.O.B. (Forward Operating Base) to another. I track/account for these vehicles using registration numbers, or as you folks in the states refer to them as license plate numbers through a variety of Excel spreadsheets. Nevertheless, I realized that I had been reading too many numbers for too many days when I wake up in a cold sweat dreaming of



This month's photo entry is the twenty-two ton Buffalo...**MRAP** (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicle.

These monsters are behemoth.....

**Length:** 26.90 ft. 8.20m)

**Width:** 8.50ft (2.59m)

**Height:** 12.99 ft. (3.96 m)

**Speed:** 65mph (105km/h)

**Range:** 300miles (483km)

**Accommodation:** 2 + 4

**Weight:** 22.7 US Short Tons  
(20,556kg; 45,318lbs)

**Engine(s):** 1 x Mack ASET AI-400 engine generating 450hp.

you subtract my mid-tour R&R (Rest and Relaxation) which I'm scheduled to start on Sept 19<sup>th</sup>. But who's counting....

I have opportunities from time to time to engage other soldiers (outside of my own unit) in conversations. The other day during lunch, I was sitting with a group of French Foreign Legionnaires. One of the soldiers sitting next to me in the DFAC (mess hall) spoke quite good English. I inquired if he was French. He told me he was German by birth and pointed out several of his fellow soldiers sitting with us who were of many different nationalities. One fellow sitting across from me was from Argentina. So being the smart guy I thought I was, I thought I'd try out my best Spanish on him and show off my ability to order a beer in Spanish. Come to find out that he thought I asked him if he "wanted to kiss"... Boy was

numbers...when I should have been dreaming of my wonderful wife....Go figure.

I've taken the liberty of providing a "photo of the month" while I'm over, I thought I could provide some editorial insights and show something interesting or rather unusual. Check out the above photo for a truly huge craft of war.

If my calculations are correct, it would take about twenty-two Miatas to equal the weight of one of these Buffalos. Quite honestly, you could fit three Miata's inside the cab...

The manufacturer (Force Protection) claims there have been no fatalities in their vehicles (yet).. However I believe there was a close one in Afghanistan a few weeks back when a driver within the Polish Battle Group (PBG) took a rocket in

*continued on page 8*

upcoming

# Revisit the '60's at the Beach Party Run!

**When: September 18-20, 2009**

**Where: The Breakers, Long Beach**

**Hosts: Mike & Lilly Springer,**

[springerphoto@wamail.net](mailto:springerphoto@wamail.net)

**Allan & Cheryl Ohlsen,**

[mytrail@att.net](mailto:mytrail@att.net)

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

Friday will feature a back-road-twisties tour starting in Tacoma at 9:00 a.m., with a stop for lunch. Alternatively, you may just join us for dinner in Long Beach Friday evening or on Saturday morning for a light drive/poker run. Saturday evening we'll start with a barbeque pot luck in a picnic area, then retire to a party room for dancing. The theme for the dance is

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

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

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



*The North Head Lighthouse near Long Beach is one of several scenic outposts along the Pacific Coast scheduled for the Beach Party Run.*

*Photo by Mike Springer*



*Looking toward Cape Disappointment, the scenery is truly spectacular on the 2009 Beach Party Run.*

*Photo by Mike Springer*

## From the Middle East

*continued from page 7*

the window of a MRAP Cougar that they were operating. I believe the back brief stated that the Polish soldier suffered severe brain damage.

As an added bonus I've also included some "old school" technology of how they still clear all the Russian mine fields that the Soviets were kind enough to leave for us...

I read the monthly PSMC Sounder and peruse the web site, on a regular basis, and look forward to hearing from anybody who cares to e-mail.

Your friend,

A.J. MCGRANAGHAN, MRAP/Miata driver extraordinary.....

# Racing around the region

by Denise Williamson

It's that time of year when there's an event almost every weekend, with many more to come! For this edition of the Sounder, we'll begin in Packwood at the very first NWR SCCA ProSolo of the season. For those of you unfamiliar with ProSolo, it is two mirrored/nearly identical autocross courses with one driver on each course, driving head-to-head. It actually gets much more involved and convoluted than that, but this will give you the general idea. Anyway, there were only 81 entrants. The lone PSMC driver at this event was *Dieter Beldi*, who drove his '07 Mazdaspeed3 to a second place finish in Stock 3.

The next autocross (SCCA #3) was the very next day, also in Packwood. When you drive that far, it's worth it to stay the weekend and race for two days. This time, there were 186 entrants. The PSMC driver turnout (six) for this event was much better than the ProSolo. In Stock 2, *Rich Blake* placed fifth in his '94 Miata with an E Stock indexed time of 47.253. *Dieter Beldi* placed second in Stock 3 in his '07 Mazdaspeed3 with a D Stock indexed time of 47.789. In Non-Stock 1, *Tim Irwin* placed second in an '01 Porsche Boxster with a B Street Prepared indexed time of 49.262. In a vehicle we're not used to seeing him in, *Bob Bundy* placed third in Street Mod in an '01 Ford Focus with a time of 57.533. *Rickey Carlson* placed second in SSM aka Street Mod 2 in his '90 Miata with a time of 61.275. In Open PAX, *Glen Hernandez* placed fifth in a '99 10AE Miata with a C Stock indexed time of 46.705. For those of you with long memories, Glen co-drove a 10AE for the 2000 autocross season. Having fun in Time Only PM were *Rich Blake* (57.131) in his '94 Miata, and *Dieter Beldi* (59.484) in an "Eingspritzt" '08 BMW 135.

One week later was SCCA #4, held in Bremerton on May 24. Out of 187 entrants, there were six PSMC drivers. *Glen Hernandez* placed seventh in Open PAX in a '99 Miata with a CS indexed time of 44.830. *Bob Bundy* won the Street Mod class in his '88 Mazda 323 GTX with a time of 56.634. In

Non-Stock 4, *Russ Hill* placed 16<sup>th</sup> in his '91 Miata with an STS indexed time of 49.385. In Non-Stock 1, *Tim Irwin* placed fifth in an '01 Porsche Boxster with a BSP indexed time of 48.676. *Dieter Beldi* won the Stock 3 class in his '07 Mazdaspeed 3 with a DS indexed time of 44.686. In Stock 2, *Rich Blake* placed second in his '94 Miata with an ES indexed time of 45.007. Kudos for this event go to two guys who know how to have fun. The first guy is *Glen Hernandez*, who got to drive a supercharged Ariel Atom. The second guy isn't a PSMC member, but I wanted to give kudos to him just because he autocrosses a 1931 Ford Roadster.

BSCC held their third event of the year on Memorial Day. The event attracted 168 entrants, three of whom were PSMC drivers. In Sports C, *Tom Slipp* placed second in his '91 Miata with a time of 57.064. *Dieter Beldi* won the Medium Sedan class in his '07 Mazdaspeed3 with a time of 52.639. In the Street Tire class, *Michael Colangelo* placed 11<sup>th</sup> in his recently acquired Mitsubishi Evolution, with an AS indexed time of 50.316.

The next weekend was Understeer/Oversteer, a double-header, and WWSCC's first event of the 2009 season. The weather was great all weekend at Sanderson Field (near Shelton). On Saturday, 100 entrants (including four PSMC drivers) got five runs! In PRO1, *Alan Dahl* placed third in his '07 Pontiac Solstice GXP with an AS indexed time of 38.787 (46.011 unindexed), and *Glen Hernandez* placed sixth in a '99 Miata with a CS indexed time of 39.973 (47.757 unindexed). *Dieter Beldi* won the Stock D class in his '07 Mazdaspeed3 with a time of 49.056. Having fun in the AM or PM Time Only classes were *Tom Slipp* in his '91 Miata (52.037), *Glen Hernandez* in a '99 Miata (47.156), and *Dieter Beldi* in his '07 Mazdaspeed3 (48.872). Kudos for the event goes to *Alan Dahl*, who had

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## July Autocross

(For more info, go to [www.wwscc.org](http://www.wwscc.org))

5 NWR/SCCA Event #6	Bremmerton Raceway
11 ChuckaNut Sports Car Club #5	Blaine Airport
11-12 SCCA Packwood Nat'l Tour	Packwood
12 ChuckaNut Sports Car Club \$6	Blaine Airport
14-16 Evolution Schools	Packwood
18-19 Packwood ProSolo	Packwood
19 BSCC Event #5	Bremmerton Raceway
25 Oregon Region SCCA Event #5	PIR So. Paddock
26 Oregon Region SCCA Event #6	PIR So. Paddock

## New Faces

*We hope to see you at an event soon!*

David Schutt, Gig Harbor	'97 Laguna Blue
Brent & Colleen Robin, Anacortes	'08 Red
Debra & Mike Kloehn, Olalla	'92 Black
Jeff Brash, Friday Harbor	

## Familiar Faces

*Renew old friendships at an event soon!*

Kathy Jerman, Bellevue	'94 Montego
Gary & April Meier, Tacoma	'93 Black LE
John & Patricia Parker, Bellingham	'08 Stormy Blue
Mica	
Karen Perry, Mukilteo	'99 Sapphire
Dale & Charlene Sain, Auburn	'95 Merlot
AJ & Vickie McGranaghan, Lakewood	'04 Silver
Jean Zeman & Todd Witzel, Buckley	'03 Silver

# Have you got your pin yet?



The PSMC has come up with a fun way to promote our club. PSMC Board Member Bill Bell designed these two pins, which sell for \$5 per pin, as a fundraiser for the club. Bill attended a big gathering of Miatas earlier this year in the Southwest. He sold about 30 of the pins at that event.

There are two versions of the pin. They are basically the same design, except one has the slogan "1<sup>st</sup> Miata Club" on the left and "in the USA" on the right, while the other says "Driving the Evergreen State" on the left and "since 1989" on the right.

The "First Miata Club" pin is especially popular since it reminds people that we were, indeed, the first Miata club to get its charter back in December, 1989. (You can read more about the club's history on page 2 of the Sounder each month this year. If you missed any of those reflections, you can access the Sounder on the web at [www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org).)

The pins are available from any board member and they will be available for purchase at the Great Northwest Gathering. Some may end up as door prizes too! If you would like to buy extra pins to trade or sell to benefit the club, you can get your supply at the Gathering.

Also available at the Gathering will be a business card that you can write your name on the front and drop onto Miatas you see as you are driving around. The text says: "\_\_\_\_\_ saw you driving the greatest sports car in the world today."

We'd like to invite you to an event. Check out our club calendar and join us soon!" The club website is listed as well. These will be available free at the Gathering to anyone who wants them.

## Autocross gears up!

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the seventh top time of the day (unindexed). Kudos for *after* the event goes to Shelton, who was having their Forest Festival (PSMC was in the parade). Many autocrossers enjoyed the fair, including throwing balls at milk bottles, shooting a water pistol into the clown's mouth, and having a race on gunny sacks down the giant slide. Too bad none of them are competitive.... The evening was capped off by fireworks.

At Sunday's event, there were 91 entrants, including four PSMC drivers. *Dieter Beldi* won the Stock D class in his '07 Mazdaspeed3 with a time of 46.861. In PRO1, *Glen Hernandez* placed sixth in a '99 Miata with a CS indexed time of 38.925 (46.505 unindexed). Having fun in the AM or PM Time Only classes were *Tom Slipp* in his '91 Miata (51.421) and *Rich Blake* in his '94 Miata (48.905 AM, 47.884 PM).

Don't forget about the PSMC-sponsored Miatacross event, scheduled for Sanderson Field in Shelton on Sept. 27. Details on that event will appear in the August Sounder.

You think that's a lot of events? We're barely getting started! Stay tuned to [www.wwscc.org](http://www.wwscc.org) for details.



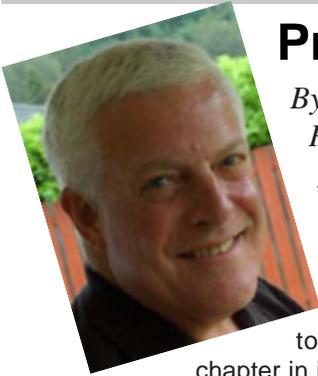
### ***Eat 'n Greet***

***July 21***  
***6 p.m.***

You won't want to miss the next "Eat n Greet" at Burgermaster in Everett. Who knows, you might witness a marriage proposal! The address is 7909 Evergreen Way, Everett. Contact host Bill Bell @ [arbill@hotmail.com](mailto:arbill@hotmail.com) or RSVP on the website, [www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org).

## President's Message

By Tom Millar  
PSMC President



This is my first communication of my presidency of the Puget Sound Miata Club. In some respects the job seems daunting while in other respects the challenge is exciting to move our club forward into a new chapter in its history. I want to take a moment to thank Mindy Bohnas, outgoing PSMC President, and her many great contributions to the club over this past year. I also want to thank her for taking care of the "new kid on the block", making certain all the various logistics of our club activities are kept in check to provide the seamless appearance of events well coordinated and executed. Believe me when I say that these activities require a lot of time and careful thought.

Now here comes the pitch. A 20-year club like PSMC does not function without a lot of effort by a few individuals. As with any club and volunteer organization, a few members, perhaps 10 to 15 percent, carry the load of this work and the events come off as a result of the efforts of these few. During my first communiqué to all of you I would like to make an appeal that we need new fresh blood within the leadership of PSMC, to drive new ideas and assume some of the many tasks that present themselves in the operation of these club activities. In keeping with this thought, I would like each of you to consider making a viable contribution to the club by serving as a member of the board. Each of us is blessed with their own unique talents which can be brought to the surface as we continue our journey into the next 20 years.

Now for a little bit about me. I was born in Oakland, California and was raised in the Bay Area. Cindy, my bride of 34 years, is my navigator and we have been blessed with two, now grown children, Damon and Genevieve. We have lived in the great Pacific Northwest for 28 years, migrating up here from Scottsdale, AZ. Cindy is an educator in Everett Public Schools and I am a District Manager for Aramark Healthcare. I am also proud to be a retired U.S. Coast Guardsman, having served in both active and reserve status for a combined total of 30 years, operating mostly in the area of search and rescue. We purchased our 2001 SE BRG Miata new and finally joined the PSMC in January of 2005. I chose the car because it so reminded me of the British TR4's, TR6's, Spitfires and MG's, of my younger years in the Bay Area, knowing at the time that I could neither afford them nor fix them. Bill Cooper has no worries about competition from me.

June has been a busy month with our band of Miatalites. During the first Saturday of June we held our PSMC Board Meeting at Charlotte Feller's lovely home in Auburn where voted in new board members and me as President. The Second Sloppy Saturday, hosted by Sean and Pam McGriff, will provide some great fun in the middle of June. Bill Bell will host the second "Eat & Greet" at Jimmy Mac's Restaurant in Renton. Finally, we have the Fathoms of Fun Parade in Port Orchard on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June.

Following Summer Solstice and moving into the month of July, we begin the month with the Historics Races in Auburn. On this same July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend the Kingston Parade will take place, followed

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## OFFICERS/DIRECTORS WEB COMMITTEE

### CHIEF OFFICERS

Operating \_\_\_\_\_ Tom Millar  
Executive \_\_\_\_\_ Mindy Bohnas  
Communications \_\_\_\_\_ Open  
Financial \_\_\_\_\_ Sean McGriff

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

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

### APPOINTED POSITIONS

Insurance Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Open  
Data Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Sean McGriff  
Parade Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Dan White  
Sounder Editor \_\_\_\_\_ Charlotte Fellers  
Webmaster \_\_\_\_\_ Nathan Allan  
Autocross Rep \_\_\_\_\_ Denise Williamson

### WEB COMMITTEE

Webmaster/EIO \_\_\_\_\_ Nathan Allan  
Assistant Webmaster \_\_\_\_\_ Mindy Bohnas  
Classified Ads/Specialty Programmer \_\_\_\_\_ John Young  
Special Graphics \_\_\_\_\_ Mike Springer

## MEMBERSHIP

The club operates as a non-profit organization and relies primarily on volunteer services. However, sponsorship of events, the publication and mailing of the monthly newsletter and operating supplies constitute a financial burden that must be met by the membership. Make your Miata experience more enjoyable-join and participate. To keep the club meaningful and solvent, we need your support.

To join go online at [pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://pugetsoundmiataclub.org) or send your name, address and check for \$30 (annual chapter dues) to:

**Puget Sound Miata Club**  
222 Wells Ave N  
Renton, WA 98055

# 2009 Calendar

For details about these events or to **RSVP**, check out the Calendar at [pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://pugetsoundmiataclub.org)

## July 2009

- 3-5 Historics Races, 8-5 daily, Pacific Raceways, Auburn
- 4 Kingston Parade, noon, followed by lunch
- 11 Tour of Mt. Ranier Scenic Railroad, hosted by Bill Bell & Mindy Bohnas, details, p. 4.
- 17-19 Two Lanes in Two Days Drive to Willamette Valley Explore Oregon Event, in Sisters, OR hosted by Dahlke & Johnson, see page 4.
- 18 Whidbey Island Tour, hosted by Frank Shriver & Carol Kus and Tom & Cindy Millar, see page 3.
- 19 Chinatown Parade, 5 p.m. (tentative) **(Needs a host)**
- 21 'Eat & Greet', hosted by Bill Bell, Burgermaster, Everett, see p. 10.
- 25 Silverdale Whaling Days Parade, 8:30 a.m., lunch to follow

## August 2009

- 8 Annual PSMC Northwest Gathering, see page 5.
- 15 Mt. Baker Tour with Sea To Sky Club
- 23 Wine Tasting Drive & Eat, Gig Harbor
- 25 Fourth 'meet & greet', hosted by Bill Bell, XXX Root Beer Drive-In, Issaquah.
- 29 LeMay Museum Open House, 9-5, hosted by Mike Springer

## September 2009

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

## October 2009

- 3-4 Olympic Peninsula Tour, hosted by Tom/Cindy Millar, see page 6.
- 31 Halloween Party, hosted by Mike/Lilly Springer, Tacoma
- 31 Bremerton Safe Trick-or-Treat, 5-8 p.m. with drive to Springers at 8 p.m. hosted by Bohnas.

## November 2009

- 7 Fall PSMC Board Meeting, Mitzel's in Fife, 11 a.m. lunch, meeting to follow
- 22 Turkey Teaser, hosted by Sean/Pam McGriff

## December 2009

- 5 Annual PSMC Holiday Party, details TBA
- 27 Post Holiday Open House, Tom/Lindanne Gores, Gig Harbor, details TBA

## President's Message

*continued from page 11*

by lunch. Bill Bell and Mindy Bohnas will be hosting the Tour of Mt. Ranier Scenic Railroad and the following weekend will see the Two Lanes in Two Days Drive to Willamette Valley Explore Oregon event. Frank Shriver & Carol Kus, along with yours truly and Cindy, will be hosting the Whidbey Island Tour which is guaranteed to be a winner. In the middle this month we have the Chinatown Parade, followed two days later with another "Eat & Greet", hosted again by Bill Bell. July concludes with the Silverdale Whaling Days Parade on the 25<sup>th</sup>. As you can see, there won't be any grass growing under the feet of this club during the month!

I want to highlight an article in the June Souder regarding our own A.J. McGranahan who is currently serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan. This is a fascinating article and we continue to wish A.J. safe passage, and a hearty thank you, during his deployment in a not so nice place.

Again, I want to thank my board members and all of you for your continued support as we enter yet another summer of fun and frolic. Now, get out there and drive!

**Thanks to the following Miata dealers and businesses who provide PSMC member discounts (simply show your PSMC Card):**

*Coop's Miata of Maple Valley (425) 432-9666*

*Doug's Lynnwood Mazda (425) 774-3551*

*Mazda of Everett (425) 353-3403*

*Louie Orrino at South Tacoma Mazda (253) 722-2888/Cost plus 20%*

*University Mazda of Seattle (206) 634-1191*

*Whidbey Island Mazda of Oak Harbor (360) 675-2218*

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