

# Miata Sounder



The Oldest Miata Club in the United States

November / December 2011

## PSMC 2011 Holiday Happenings

**Holiday open house welcomes season!**

**When: December 17, 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Host: Charlotte Fellers [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)**

Many of us remember the years when the PSMC hosted a holiday party and gave everyone a chance to get together during the winter months and catch up on news of friends. We haven't had one of those parties for a few years, so take advantage of an opportunity to run into some old friends and perhaps make some new ones at the home of PSMC President Charlotte Fellers in Auburn.

This is a casual come-and-go open house featuring light appetizers. Others who are not PSMC members also have been invited so don't be surprised if you see some different folks than usual. But there will be plenty of time to catch up with friends in a casual setting. You don't have to bring anything, just yourselves (unless you really want to bring something). Stop by



to say hello and have a cup of coffee or some other beverage that may be on hand. Then you can be on your way to your next party or to the mall for early holiday shopping.

**Directions from I-5 North or South:** Get on HWY 18 and take the Auburn Way exit. Get in the right lane and at the bottom of the exit, take a RIGHT. This road is Auburn Way South. Continue to MAIN and take a right on Main Street. After a block is a stop sign (police station on your right). Continue

straight on Main Street to the stop light on M Street. Continue straight on Main Street to the next 4-way Stop Sign. Turn LEFT and go four blocks to 4<sup>th</sup> St NE. Turn RIGHT on 4<sup>th</sup> St and continue to 1800. Park on the right side of the street or in the driveway.

## 2011 Gores Open House!

**When: December 30, 6 p.m. to ?? p.m.**

**Host: Tommy and Lindanne Gores, [lindanne@comcast.net](mailto:lindanne@comcast.net)**

We would love it if you would join us for a Holiday get together at our house for our annual celebration of another great year. Yes, it's Friday, but hopefully most folks don't have to work the next day, so come over after work and relax with friends. Please bring an appetizer to share if you can, and if it's anything like last year, plan to bring the recipe along as well so you don't have to trade several emails for each others' recipes!

**Directions to: 5702 43rd Ave NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335**  
From Tacoma: Take Hwy 16 across the Narrows Bridge (\$4.00 toll on your way home - no toll West to Gig Harbor). Stay in the right lane after crossing the bridge then take the Olympic exit and turn left crossing over the freeway. Go through 4 traffic lights and at the 40 mph speed sign put on right turn signal. Turn right at 43rd. We are the 4th house on left, number 5702.

From Bremerton: Take the Olympic Drive Exit to the right and follow above directions with the exception of only counting 3 traffic lights.

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## Legal Stuff

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The *SOUNDER* is published 9 times a year (as close to the first of the month as possible). Nov/Dec, Jan/Feb, & Mar/Apr are combined. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the 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**

**tom.mackey@gmail.com**

**sounder@pugetsoundmiataclub.org**

Classified/members	free
Classified/nonmembers	\$20
Classified/business	\$20
Business card	\$20/mo
	or \$180 per year paid in advance
Quarter Page	\$35
1/2 Page	\$65

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## Electronic Newsletters — the Final Word

Faced with either raising dues for everyone or charging a little extra for those folks who still want printed copies, the PSMC BOD made the tough choice of charging \$10 per year extra for printed newsletters. This covers about half of the actual cost of printing and mailing newsletters. The extra charge will go into effect January 1st of 2012.

We sincerely hope that the extra charge does not cause anyone to leave the club. If anyone wants to receive the newsletter electronically but does not have a stable email address, and would like help setting one up, please contact me and I will help you set up a free and stable email account that you can use whether you are at home or traveling. Most motels and hotels now have business centers where you can use a computer for free to read your email and sometimes even print for free or for a nominal charge.

For those of you who are web-enabled, we currently we have Sounders going back to 2007 here:

[http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org/misc/list\\_sounders.php](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org/misc/list_sounders.php)

Since we switched to MS Publisher, the links you see in the pdf's, such as the one directly above, are live. This makes online reading a richer experience.

Thanks! **tom.mackey@gmail.com**

## Winter Planning Meeting at Lee Johnson's Chevrolet Meeting Room in Kirkland

### When: Saturday January 7th

### Potluck starts at 11:00, meeting at 11:30

If you are planning to host an event or plan a drive for the 2012 calendar year for the PSMC, then you need to try and make it to the Winter Calendar Planning Meeting on January 7th. The fun starts at 11 a.m. with a potluck lunch at Lee Johnsons Chevrolet & Miata in Kirkland.

At 11:30 or so, we'll continue setting the calendar for 2012, an operation begun in the Fall planning meeting back in November. This involves you telling the board the date and concept for your drive so we can block the date on the calendar for you. This prevents numerous events happening on the same day and gives every-

one notice to plan their activities accordingly. It's best to come with a first and second choice date in mind so if others have events planned, you can work with everyone's schedule.

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

You may RSVP on the website.



## Awards Luncheon

**When: January 21st at 2:00 p.m. in Redmond**

**Host: PSMC Board**

**Contact: Mike Springer at (252) 468-5291**

The club has many members who work hard to provide events which enrich the club experience with a wide variety of events. The PSMC Board wants to recognize these members.

Please join us at: Azteca Mexican Restaurant

3040 – 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast

Redmond, WA 98052

Phone: [\(425\) 881-8700](tel:4258818700)

Website: [www.aztecamex.com](http://www.aztecamex.com)

**Directions from I-405 North or South bound**

1 – Take Exit 14 (SR 520) East bound

2 – Take the 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. Exit (the 2<sup>ND</sup> 148<sup>th</sup> Exit)

3 – Turn right onto 148<sup>th</sup>

4 – one block North bound on 148<sup>th</sup>

The restaurant will be visible on the right side

Turn right on NE 31<sup>st</sup> Cir. and park in the lot.

Either RSVP on the website or call

Mike Springer at (252) 468-5291

Hosted by the PSMC Board

## Upcoming Events — Something for Everyone!

### December 2011

11 Charlotte's holiday open house. Host Charlotte Fellers [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)

30 Gore's holiday open house, Host Tommy and Lindanne Gore [lindanne@comcast.net](mailto:lindanne@comcast.net)

### January 2011

7 Winter Planning meeting, 11 a.m., Lee Johnsons in Kirkland. Hosts: PSMC Board [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)

21 Awards Luncheon, 2 p.m., Azteca in Redmond. Hosts: PSMC Board [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)

**Note: Watch the PSMC website for the latest and sometimes changing information**



**Highway 550 between Silverton Colorado and Ouray Colorado**

## Some preliminary event plans for 2012

Editor's Note: Watch future Sounders and the PSMC WebSite for changes or corrections on these event plans.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY JULY 11-12, 2012 **Two Lanes To Explore Oregon.** July 12-15 (Thursday through Sunday) are the dates for the very popular Explore Oregon event put on by the Willamette Valley Miata Club (see separate event listing below.) The event is expanded by one day this year and will be based in Ashland, Oregon. We are planning another PSMC Two Lane route to travel to the event. The purpose is to avoid all freeways and enjoy the secondary roads in a leisurely fashion. As the distance is greater than in the last couple of years, we are planning a 2 day trip (Wednesday & Thursday). Our route will start in the South Puget Sound area, will include an over-night stay in mid-latitude Oregon, plus some stops for delicious tastings and yummy meals along the way (details TBA.) We promise to do our best to make it well worth the additional time it involves. We even suggest it will be worth using days of vacation from work! If you have been to this event in the past, you know how much fun the Willamette Valley people pack into their events. They really know how to pick Miata roads for maximum enjoyment. If you have not been to an Explore Oregon, please give us a call and we will be glad to give you some details. *Note well: You must register separately for the Explore Oregon meet.* (See: <http://www.oregonmx5.com>) PSMC Hosts: Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson, phone [253-845-2424](tel:253-845-2424), [ToadHallWA@gmail.com](mailto:ToadHallWA@gmail.com)

THURSDAY-SUNDAY JULY 12-15 2012: **Explore Oregon 2012**, Ashland, Oregon, hosted by Willamette Valley Miata Club. Register at <http://www.oregonmx5.com/> Many PSMC cars will attend. **This event fills up fast, so sign up and also make your hotel reservations right away.**

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2012. **PSMC Road Run to "Come And Play On Labor Day"** parade at South Bend, Wash. Meet for breakfast in the South Sound area (time/place TBA), then cruise about 75-100 miles of winding two-lane blacktop to South Bend and appear in their parade. Late lunch will follow at a local establishment. PSMC Hosts: Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson, phone [253-845-2424](tel:253-845-2424), [ToadHallWA@gmail.com](mailto:ToadHallWA@gmail.com)

**Also: Here are two non-PSMC events our club likes to attend and which should be calendared:**

SUNDAY APRIL 1, 2012: **Corvettes de Olympia 32nd annual Poker-Gimmick Rally**, co-sponsored by NWR-SCCA. Open to all clubs and cars; PSMC specifically invited. 75-mile rally through country roads; not a speed event, not a car show. In a poker rally you follow an obscure route and draw cards at checkpoints and try to make the best poker hand to win prizes. Entry fee \$15/car, benefits Corvettes de Olympia scholarship for automotive students at South Puget Sound Community College. Start between 9:00 and 11:00 AM at Gould Chiropractic Center, 704 Lilly Rd. SE, Olympia, WA. Bring driver, navigator, and proof of car insurance. Watch <http://www.corvettesdeolympia.org> for updates. Rallymasters are PSMC's own Duncan Johnson & Dee Dahlke, phone [253-845-2424](tel:253-845-2424), [ToadHallWA@gmail.com](mailto:ToadHallWA@gmail.com)

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012 (*tentative date, to be confirmed*): **MG Car Club La Conner Tulip Rally**, Burlington, Wash. This is a huge (300+ cars) open-to-all gimmick rally through the bulb fields at the peak of the Tulip Festival. It is also a nostalgic in-motion display of vintage British and European sporting cars. For details or to pre-register check <http://www.mgccnwc.com/> No PSMC host; just register and show up (early!) on your own. In the past if our club entered at least 3 cars, our best finisher would be eligible for a trophy.

## Past Events

# Escape to Red Mountain Tour September 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

by Tom Millar & Paul Jaeger  
photos by Marilyn Huckleberry

September 9<sup>th</sup> appeared to be a good choice for our tour of Eastern Washington wineries. After all, the date was set to accommodate the lateness of the summer heat and yet earlier enough to not run into issues with temps that were too cool for top down driving. Our band of twelve Miata's arrived at our designated meeting area, which was the North Bend Outlet Mall, at 9:30 a.m. Following pit stops, coffee recharges and our driver's meeting we embarked on our journey to the Tri-Cities and the infamous Red Mountain wineries.

Our select group of twelve traveled across Snoqualmie Pass and onto Vantage where we broke ranks with I-5 and caught some mild twisties along the Columbia River. By this time all of our tops were definitely down and we were basking in ninety degrees plus temps. However, it is a dry heat after all!

Our first winery stop was Ginkgo Forest. This stop afforded our group with some great wine tasting, a great hamburger lunch including wine and some marvelous fresh-picked fruit. The visit was memorable and the hospitality of our hosts was beyond reproach.



**"Ginkgo Forest Wine? Found it!"**



**Sleeping Dog — a down home place!**

Our next stop was the Sleeping Dog Winery near Benton. While we endured a tasting fee, we enjoyed some absolutely wonderful wines as well as the master vintner and his dog (hence, sleeping dog). As the pours became greater, we also enjoyed a run through his sprinklers with our collective bare feet as the group truly unwound.



**Tom and Ray do some unwinding**

The end of the first day brought us to the Marriott Courtyard in Richland which served as our base during our tour. Paul Jaeger did a great job selecting this venue as the folks were quite nice, accommodating our every need, including an extended wine party on the back patio overlooking the river.

On Saturday morning, after some exploring along the river and some great breakfast, we embarked on our second day of pursuit of the grape and its mystic wonders. Our first stop was the Terra Blanca Winery. Again, these accommodating folks provided us with our own special tasting section. We also enjoyed a light lunch, basking in

their beautiful accommodations, reminiscent of old eloquent California Spanish colonial architecture.



**Terra Blanca provides nice shade**



**Miatas at Hightower**

Kiona Vinyards and Hightower Cellars comprised our second and third stops for the day. These are great wines and again we basked in some fine hospitality which appears to be prevalent throughout the Red Mountain region.



Saturday night was spent foraging out different nearby dining venues and most of us settled on one along the river taking over their patio. The social

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Past Events ( Continued )

(Continued from page 5)

activity didn't stop there however. Wine tasting went on into the wee hours of the morning on the outside patio of the Marriott and much wine was consumed. It is certain that no lies were told... not! What happens in Richland stays in Richland



On Sunday morning we bid our farewell to Richland and made our way to the Milbrandt Vineyards tasting room for our final stop of the trip. These accommodating folks set a large table for us and provided us with some great food and wine selections.



Following this wonderful hospitality we each made our separate ways back to our homes with fond memories of an outstanding trip!



## Autumn Rallye 2011

By Tom Mackey

Photo by Marilyn Huckleberry

Bill and Karen graciously hosted this years' Autumn Rallye and I am happy to report that this year no one got lost! Not that they didn't try, as YrObdntSrvnt had to chase down our intrepid president when Charlotte tried to create her own special embellishment on an already fabulous run.

Coop had coffee and donuts out so we early arrivals had a chance to get some fortification prior to the start of the Rallye.

Once everyone was checked in, we all lined up in the driveway of Coops Miata. Karen had prepared the route, and I think she found every scenic road between Maple Valley and Fall City. Unfortunately, the mild weather had kept the leaves green and firmly on the trees, else it would have been even more pretty. I drove some of the same roads later in the fall, when the colors were at their peak, and I could tell that Karen had done her homework and mapwork well!



Coop had us stop at five locations where he handed out cards for a poker hand. The "snack" stop at the Raging River Café and Club ( <http://www.ragingrivercafeclub.com/> ) turned out to be a full lunch stop as we could not resist the great food and friendly atmosphere. Everyone agreed it was a great stop and many of us plan to return when we get a chance.

Back at Coop's we could buy more cards if we wished, but it didn't matter because Bill Bell won every prize there was to be had, or so it seemed! Bill, being the nice guy he is, gave most of the prizes back to give others a chance, proving once again that this club has some of the best people and cutest cars on earth!

## Extra-Curricular Activities



**Capt. Christopher Larsen of Lake Stevens has set aside his '06 Galaxy Gray Grand Touring for the next year or so. Larsen, public affairs officer for the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Marysville, is currently stationed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.**

Emily Muir and her Miata enjoy transporting two Key Club leaders in the October homecoming procession at Liberty High School in Renton. Miatas owned by Larry Muir and Dee Dahlke were also part of the show. This was not an official PSMC event, rather a few Miatas and their humans supporting a worthy cause. Check the group in the background; the kids loved the roadsters.

(Photo by Dr. Stacey Hutchison)



# President's Message November / December 2011

By Charlotte Fellers



Greetings, fellow Miata revelers!

Where did 2011 go, anyway? Sometimes life feels like it's moving in fast forward, doesn't it?

As we approach the busy month of December, and the quiet month of January, I think we all need to be reminded of how lucky we are to belong to such a great club. I have enjoyed many social activities with fellow club members this year. I guess it would be hard to overstate how much fun I (and my mom, Vera, who sometimes joins me on the drives) have had this year on some of our popular drives. I always enjoy the overnight trips planned by our "wine geeks" in the club, who happened to be the Houghtons, Paul Jeagger, and the Millars, this time. We spent a couple of days cruising around the Tri-Cities region and Prosser during the height of the summer season. Also, mom and I truly reveled in the beauty of the Oregon landscapes as we joined the Willamette Valley Miata Club for the Explore Oregon 2011 trip back in July. Don't discount the fun and unexpected excitement generated by the day trips that always end with food and socializing. Finally, mom and I spent a few days in the Ashland area as guests of some old friends and former PSMC members, who used to live in the area, Joanie Hughes and Dennis Thompson. They were lucky enough (or maybe smart enough) to retire in Talent, Oregon, several years ago. I am amazed at the friendships I have made up and down I-5 because of this little club!

On the "news" front, we learned in November that our Past President, Mike Springer, suffered a stroke the first week in November. He spent a number of days in rehab in Tacoma before going home and then has continued his therapy. Please take time to email, phone, or drop him a card to wish him well (information is below) as he continues to improve. Mike has served the club twice as president and has been active in the club for a number of years. He hosts the annual Historic Races at Pacific Raceways every year

over Independence Day and attends many other activities to help support other club members. I know that Mike and his wife, Lillian, would enjoy hearing from all of you. If you've ever attended Detailin' Day or the Gathering, Mike and Lillian are right there helping out. Mike has organized our buffing team for Detailin' Day for many years, and I sure hope you realize what a feat that is.

Mike Springer

springerphoto@wamail.net

253-572-3285

We had our planning board meeting in November to set the calendar for 2012. We've got our second planning meeting to finish adding events to our calendar on January 7 at Lee Johnson's meeting room in Kirkland, with a potluck at 11 a.m., followed by our regular board meeting and calendar planning meeting. We've also scheduled a casual luncheon January 21 to recognize all those who have hosted drives in 2011 and to celebrate our 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary! The doings start with a no-host lunch at 11 a.m. at the Azteca Restaurant in Redmond and a short program will follow. Please join us for some social time during the winter rains.

Another item of note from our board meeting was the decision to avoid raising our dues (which, by the way, have not gone up once in 22 years). In order to keep our costs in line, the board of directors have voted to charge those who wish to receive the newsletter via snail mail, an additional \$10 per year, which will cover about half of the actual costs to print and mail the nine issues of the *Sounder*. Several options are out there to get your newsletter printed that might help you decide what to do. For example, our membership chair, Mindy Bohnas, e-mails the newsletter every month right to your e-mail In Box, where you can download it to your hard drive and print it or save it for future reading. Or, you can go to the public library and download it from your e-mail or the website and print it

there. But if you enjoy receiving the *Sounder* in the mail, we needed to find a way to defray the cost. I was thinking that when the club formed back in 1990, we didn't have the option of e-mailing the *Sounder* because most members didn't have e-mail then. We've moved into a new world in the past 20 years with the proliferation of the Internet as a communication tool. We hope you won't just abandon the club altogether and that you understand why we had to institute this change to our dues structure. Of course, if you don't get the *Sounder* mailed each month, then your dues will remain at a very cost-effective \$30 per year.

December is somewhat sparse for club events. I'll be hosting a come-and-go open house on December 17 from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. This is a self-serving move on my part—I miss seeing my PSMC friends, so this is one way to perhaps get them out of the house and over to my place for a chat! Stop by for some light appetizers and a cup of coffee or other beverage, and I'm sure you will inevitably run into some fellow club members. If you can't make it to my house (directions are on the website and elsewhere in the newsletter), then perhaps you can make it to the Gores in Gig Harbor on December 30 for their annual get-together. I've gone every year and let me tell you, Lindanne can make some delicious food! You need to head over to Gig Harbor after work and bring an appetizer (and the recipe) to share with other revelers. Details are on the website.

So, to end this long-winded letter to members, I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and are as excited as I am about the many club events we have planned for 2012! Merry Christmas, everyone!



## Editor's Message

By Tom Mackey

[tom.mackey@gmail.com](mailto:tom.mackey@gmail.com)



Back some years ago Marilyn and I lived out on the Mountain Loop Highway, eleven miles beyond Granite Falls and one mile before the electricity and phone lines ended. We worked in Tukwila – about a 70 mile commute one way. In order to get to the office at 0600, we had to get up at 0330 and leave the house by 0430.

The good thing was that we always knew the phase of the moon. We still search out the moon in early mornings and evenings – it keeps us connected to this wonderful planet we inhabit. Do you know the phase of the moon? As I write this, it is “waxing gibbous”. In other words, we are coming up on a full moon.

The sky out at Verlot was more often clear than it is here, even though it rained more. We would come down out of Verlot, then climb what is known to the locals as “Sand Hill” From that vantage point we could see from Everett to the Canadian border in a giant sweep of sky unobstructed by much of anything. To the South and East we had Mount Pilchuck and the Cascade range, snow-capped sometimes and lit by a full moon for special treats. We had an excellent view of several comets, and once I was treated to an amazing display of Northern Lights.

As the seasons progressed, so did the great wheel of the zodiac spin through the sky – and it was especially nice when we rode in our Miata with the top down, heater blasting, and bundled up against the cold. Where am I going with this? Glad you asked.

It occurs to me sometimes what an astounding set of circumstances placed our planet at just the right distance from the sun so that we have a nice average climate, and the moon just the right distance away to have an equal pull on our oceans as the sun, and the right size so as to occasionally give us a total eclipse of the sun. Chance? Design?

This season, coming up on the shortest day of the year, has long fascinated mankind. We know, almost instinctually, that longer days are coming and with them the return of blue skies and balmy breezes. But right now, we yearn for “The Coming of the Light” – perhaps that is why we as a people have chosen this season to create our own displays of light, and many of us choose at this time to celebrate our most spiritually uplifting Holidays of the year.

So whether you are celebrating the coming of the light or the coming of the Light of the World, the return of the sun or the Son of God, please ponder with me our little place in the galaxy, with a mysterious moon counterbalanced by a warm sun, and a night sky filled with stars to chart our course through the seasons. Merry Christmas, everyone!



Tom, Marilyn, and Duncan

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	Sean McGriff

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## MEMBERSHIP

The club operates as a non-profit organization and relies primarily on volunteer services. However, sponsorship of events, the publication and mailing of the newsletter, and operating supplies constitute a financial burden that must be met by the membership. **The Sounder is emailed as a PDF unless you opt for physical delivery.** Make your Miata experience more enjoyable and join the club and participate. To keep the club meaningful and solvent, we need your support! Club membership is available by going to:

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

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

Puget Sound Miata Club  
c/o Mindy Bohas  
12775 Deer Crest Dr. SW  
Port Orchard, WA 98367

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

- Send 3-5 of your best photos, not 20-30.
- Send us your j-pegs since we need to Photoshop them anyway.
- When sending news items, use one space at the end of sentences, not two. It saves space in the publication.
- Send all written materials in Arial and as attachments.
- The deadline is the 15 each month. Please observe it!

**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%*

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

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

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