

# Miata Sounder



The Oldest Miata Club in the United States

September 2011

## Great Northwest Gathering of Miatas, 2011

The Second Annual PSMC Autumn Rallye, which serves as the main fundraiser for the club, is already in the planning stages. Set for October 8, the rallye will once again feature the excitement and drama of a poker run coupled with an intriguing drive through the backroads and byways of South King County.

In its inaugural year, the rallye attendees donated nearly a dozen boxes of canned goods to the Maple Valley Food bank as one of our community service projects in conjunction with the rallye. We'll be doing this again this year.

Not only that, by mid-October, we should have a wonderful opportunity to experience our beautiful state in all its colorful fall glory. This rallye will take you through some fun backroads in South King County for a drive that we expect to take between two and 2 ½ hours to complete. Along the way, you'll be challenged by some interesting trivia questions along with the five stops to draw a poker hand.

Cost for the rallye is \$20 (pre-registered, \$25 on day of event) per car, which includes your drive directions and trivia questions, two raffle tickets, one lunch ticket, and one commemorative gift of a glass with the logo for the rallye on it. We anticipate you will go on the drive and meet back at the start point for a hot dog lunch, awards to winners, and the raffle. Expect the chance to win some useful car cleaning items as well as some other fun prizes that appeal to the taste buds.

We'll be selling additional lunch tickets for \$2 if you bring a carload and we'll have additional raffle tickets available for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. You will be able to deposit your tickets in the box for the item you'd like to win, so we are encouraging you to buy a lot of tickets to guarantee the win!

Drivers can check in and pick up their rallye directions, gifts, and tickets, plus purchase additional items beginning **at 9:30 a.m.** This is not a timed rallye. We'll award prizes based on poker hand. We'll be announcing rallye winners at approximately 1:30 p.m.

As mentioned, we invite you to join us in bringing one can

of food per person to contribute to the local food bank. If you prefer to donate cash, we'll have a donation jar for cash too. Keep up with new information about this drive at [www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org)



**When: Saturday, October 8th, Check in starts at 9:30 a.m.**

**Hosted by: PSMC BOD**

**Contact: Charlotte Fellers**

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## Legal Stuff

### STAFF

<b>Editor</b>	<b>Tom Mackey</b>
<b>Distribution</b>	<b>Mindy Bohnas</b>
<b>Mailing List</b>	<b>Mindy Bohnas</b>
<b>Photography</b>	<b>Contributed</b>

### FEATURE WRITERS

<b>Club Events</b>	<b>Event Masters</b>
<b>Event Aftermath</b>	<b>Contributors</b>
<b>Autocross</b>	<b>Dieter Beldi</b>
<b>Coop's Garage</b>	<b>Bill Cooper</b>

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**

**Tom.mackey@gmail.com**

**[sounder@pugetsoundmiataclub.org](mailto:sounder@pugetsoundmiataclub.org)**

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## Another update on electronic newsletters

We've had a few more members switch to e-delivery. The issue will be brought up at the next board meeting. I will be finding out more on how our web site operates, as I am hoping to eventually make our archive of newsletters available on our site. Keep the comments coming, please. -T

**Notice: Regretfully, the Olympic Lite Tour scheduled for this October has been cancelled.**

## Tips and Tricks from our readers

### TITLE: Creative Luggage

**Author: Debra Lynn Roeder**

We were getting ready for a 10 day trip and looking for a creative way to bring more luggage. I had also heard some of the Miata owners talking about the custom fit luggage for the trunk and rear window. My husband and I decided to use our soft sided duffel bags for the trunk. For the rear window luggage, I went on line to see what was available and found the price ranged from \$45 to \$99 plus shipping. Being frugal, I didn't want to pay that much and I didn't have time to sew my own. While surfing through the sites, I found one that suggested using a bat bag... the kind used for baseball bats. We went to Fred Meyers and Sport Authority, finding several different styles and two different lengths with prices that ranged between \$20 and \$45. We ended up at Wal-Mart and bought one there for \$11. One of the things I would suggest is checking the zipper arrangement since some are more convenient than others. We were happy with the bag we chose even with its large Rawlings logo, I was more concerned with the zipper arrangement.

Raymond & Debra Lynn Roeder  
PSMC Member since 2009  
2001 BRG

## Late newsletter

The fault is all mine for the lateness of this newsletter. The only good thing I can say is that it allowed Charlotte the luxury of re-planning her Corn Maze run, and to get it an additional chance to be published. Vacations are good, sometimes too good! In spite of my best intentions I did not find time to work on the newsletter while gone. We had three days of work when we got back and then Escaped to Red Mountain with a bunch of PSMC wine enthusiasts — what fun that was!

Anyway, I talked to Charlotte and we figured that the best thing I can do now is to slightly delay the October issue to make sure I can get all the fall news in — I will see what happens and try to pick an appropriate cut off so as to give maximum coverage to the greatest number of events coming up.

I am also considering electronic and web-based issues covering past events and tips for the months we normally skip. Let me know if you would find that interesting. -T

## Sunset Auto Trail Tour V

Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. 2011

9:15AM

By Allan Ohlsen

Long before Interstate 90, before U.S. Highway 10, even before the Lake Washington floating bridge, there was the Sunset Highway. It was the main east/west route from Seattle to Spokane and beyond from about 1914 to 1940, snaking through many small towns and communities along the way.

Join us, especially if you are new members, as we trace the historical route of the Sunset Highway (Primary State Highway 2) from the south end of Seattle, through Renton, Issaquah, Snoqualmie, and North Bend all the way to Snoqualmie Pass. We'll take the back roads with a just a tiny bit of freeway, going from urban to suburban, to rural, and all the way to the Cascade mountain wilderness. There will be a couple of fun "zoom-zoom

sidetracks" thrown in for fun, culminating with a switchback road that will put a smile on everyone's face. Last time we ran into SNOW, but not this time. We'll stop for a short break at Snoqualmie Falls, and after we reach the summit and finish, we'll have lunch at the Summit Pancake House.

We will meet at 9:15am at Randy's Diner at the south end of Boeing field on E. Marginal Way in South Seattle and leave around 9:30am for the tour. CB radios are HIGHLY encouraged for the historical snippets and trivia you may hear along the way, and cameras for what you may see. The tour should last until about 2pm giving you the rest of the day to enjoy.

Driving directions to Randy's: From north or southbound I-5, take exit 158,

E. Marginal Way. Go west to E. Marginal Way, go north (right) about three blocks and Randy's will be on the right. Please RSVP on the PSMC website or to Allan Ohlsen 206-444-6845



## Be A-Maze-d in Kent Oct. 1

Host: Charlotte Fellers

Contact: 253.333.7442

E-Mail: [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)

Corn mazes abound in Washington, so we've put this year's Corn Maze Run back on the calendar. Unfortunately, due to "unforeseen circumstances," the run we originally planned for the Snohomish County area will not be held this year (stay tuned—perhaps it will happen next year). But we will have a corn maze run this year.

This year's run begins at Cedar River Park (directions below) in Renton at 1 p.m. October 1. We will meet near the Henry Moses Water Park in the parking lot for a short driver's meeting and driving directions. From there, we will explore some fun roads in the rural areas outside Renton, Issaquah, Kent, and Maple Valley. We will stop in at the Carpinito Brothers Corn Maze in Kent. Following your romp through the Corn Mazes (there are two mazes),

take advantage of the chance to pick up some pumpkins, fresh corn on the cob, and other fresh vegetables from the vegetable stand. Take note of the cabbage, which generally costs \$1 per head and is as large as a basketball (no kidding!).

Leaving the corn maze behind, we'll wind up at the host's home in Auburn for a light dinner of homemade beef stew.

The mazes this year will be the logos for the University of Washington Huskies and the Washington State University Cougars. Wear your school colors! I'll wear mine. We'll have a fun contest to go with the theme of the day and valuable prizes will await the winner.

Cost for the corn mazes is going to be around \$7 per person. When you get to the mazes, you can choose to try

one (easier) or two (one is usually more complicated). There are six stops in each maze and if you do both, you can punch your card 12 times.

Please RSVP on the website for a head count for dinner.

### Directions:

#### From I-405 South:

Take Exit 4 (Maple Valley exit) on to Sunset Boulevard NE. Go left at the second signal light, which is Maple Valley Highway/Highway 169. Get into the right lane, travel a short distance and turn right into Cedar River Park.

#### From I-405 North:

Take Exit 4A (Renton/Maple Valley exit). Turn right at the end of the exit onto Maple Valley Highway/Highway 169. Get into the right lane, travel a short distance and turn right into Cedar River Park.

## 2011 November 5th 11 a.m. Planning/Board Meeting

Please consider joining us at the Mitzels in Fife to help plan events for the coming year, offer suggestions on how to make the club better, and enjoy the companionship of like-minded Miata owners. All clubs thrive on attention, and all suffer from lack of participation. We need you, and hope to see you there. More info on club website. Thanks! –T

## Saturday November 25th: Mall Prowl Host: Charlotte Fellers, [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)

How would you like to put yourself into the holiday spirit while working off that inevitable food coma from Thanksgiving? If you aren't tied up with other commitments, join us for the Mall Prowl Drive on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. You can hit some of your favorite shopping haunts and finish purchasing those special gifts that you didn't have time to get on Friday between 4 and 8 a.m.

This drive is still under construction, but the plan is to start early with a 7 a.m. breakfast and drivers' meeting before we

set off for Bellevue Square and our first stop. The plan is to spend between 2 and 2 ½ hours at each stop, building in time for lunch. We hope to hit at least three major shopping areas throughout the day, giving everyone an opportunity to hit the sales and a little time to explore places you might never have stopped otherwise. We'll wrap up our trip with dinner at the beautiful Copper Falls Restaurant in Auburn, overlooking the Auburn Golf Course.

Although men are welcome to join us,

you might be happier just dropping in for the happy hour/dinner portion of our day. Copper Falls has a great happy hour from 4-6 daily, featuring typical pub food, and a full dinner menu. You will find the restaurant is cozy and welcoming, and they will be glad to see a congenial party like ours come through the door. You can learn more about Copper Falls on their website at:

[www.copperfallsrestaurant.com](http://www.copperfallsrestaurant.com)

Please keep an eye on the PSMC website for more details.

## Upcoming Events — Something for Everyone!

### September 2011

4 PSMC Road Tour to "Come And Play On Labor Day" Parade, South Bend, Wash. Meet for breakfast in Centralia, 8 AM. Hosts: Dee & Duncan [ToadHallWA@yahoo.com](mailto:ToadHallWA@yahoo.com)

9-10-11 PSMC Escape to Red Mountain wine tour. North Bend, 9AM. Hosts: Houghton, Jaegar, Millar. [houghrl@comcast.net](mailto:houghrl@comcast.net)

17 PSMC Sunset Trail tour. Time/place TBD, Host: Ohlsens [railtrail@hotmail.com](mailto:railtrail@hotmail.com)

24 PSMC Leavenworth Autumn Leaf Festival parade (tentative). Time/place Host: Bill Bell [arbill@hotmail.com](mailto:arbill@hotmail.com)

### October 2011

1 PSMC Corn Maze Run IV, this time in the north end. Host Charlotte Fellers [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)

8 PSMC second Autumn Rally, location TBD, host PSMC Board [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)

29 PSMC Halloween Party, Renton. Hosts: McGriffs. [psmhome@comcast.net](mailto:psmhome@comcast.net)

31 Bremerton Safe Trick-or-Treat, 5PM. Host: Mindy [fun4sun@wavecable.com](mailto:fun4sun@wavecable.com)

### November 2011

5 Planning and Board meeting, 11 a.m., Mitzels in Fife. Hosts: PSMC Board

26 Mall Prowl, 7 a.m. Host: Charlotte Fellers

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

## More Tips and Tricks from our Readers

**TITLE: Inexpensive Miata Keyless Remote "Fob" .. that Works!**

**Author: Raymond Roeder**

Like many Miata owners who bought "used", our family has only one keyless remote "fob". So with convertible weather here once again, we thought we'd get another fob from the dealer before taking our 10 day summer road trip. The Mazda dealer wanted \$229, and then another \$69 to "program" the car to recognize the remotes. Ouch!

Well being frugal and internet savvy, I went on line to see how much better a deal I could find.

There are many sites offering keyless remote fobs for Miata's averaging around \$160, and nearly every one included "free programming instructions" for the do-it-yourselfer... sounded perfect for the self professed handyman that I am. But then again, I know sometimes things turn out different than you'd want.

So once again I exercised my powers at internet exploration and found several forums on programming the remotes... and nearly each gave slightly different instructions often accompanied by posted comments such as "I did the programming per the instructions and now the alarm goes off every time I lock the doors with the new remote" or "the old remote no longer works" or some other such complaint.

Too risky for me at \$160. However... I found one for \$63.95 plus \$5.95 shipping and it too included free programming instructions. Being a contemplative risk taker, I figured that at \$69.90 it was worth it to take the risk... and the fact that my brilliant wife pointed out for another \$69 the dealership could "fix" the programming, should I fail, and we'd still be under the other website price of \$160. Of course I reassured her we'd never have to spend the money for dealership re-programming since I was confident in my self-professed handyman abilities.

Well, we ordered the fob at [www.keylessremotesonline.com](http://www.keylessremotesonline.com) for our 2001 Miata and waited. It arrived 4 days later (they had said it should take 3 to 5 days). The fob was the correct make and style; it was clean and appeared unflawed, though I think it may have been a refurbished unit.

Reading the programming instructions it became apparent these were again different than others I had researched. I had anticipated this, I already printed four other versions to ensure I could walk back into the house proclaiming programming success and furthering my handyman reputation... never needed the other instruction, though. The new fob worked using the programming instruction that came with it. I did have to go through two cycles of programming though, but only because the car is in programming mode for 40 seconds and I read instructions too slow (so don't blame the car, the fob, or Keyless Remotes OnLine). And you do it all while sitting in the driver's seat with the door open... no crawling around, no greasy hands.

In the end we saved nearly \$230 compared to the dealership costs. That's pretty good savings. And worth sharing with all our friends at Puget Sound Miata Club!

By the way... don't tell my wife how easy it was... I'm still trying to get her to believe I'm a good "handyman".

Raymond & Debra Lynn Roeder

PSMC Member since 2009

2001 BRG

## Past Events

### Mount Baker Tour, 2011



By Tom Mackey

This was another opportunity to get together with our friends across the boarder, and as usual, everyone had a lot of fun! If I remember correctly, we had 12 cars, and they brought 16, all nicely shined up and looking great on a beautiful summer day. There was a lot of snow at Mt. Baker this past winter, and in fact, the upper parking lot was still under 20 feet of snow, so we all had to crowd into the lot at Heather Ridge. After a suitable time of gawking at the monstrous hills of snow all around us, we all got back into our



At Heather Ridge



At the Forest Stop

cars and headed down the mountain for a delicious lunch in Maple Falls. After saying our good-byes, they headed North, and we headed South, where several of us stopped at a nice artist and gift gallery on Chuckanut drive before winding our way home through the farm lands of Skagit Valley. This is one of our favorite trips and we hope to see you the next time it is offered! -T



## Historic Races at Pacific International Raceways 2011

### By Mike Springer

Profile: Mark Brandt, former member Puget Sound Miata Club and vintage race car owner-driver. In his first race with SOVREN, he says he is normally an SCCA kind of guy, still pushing the limits a little harder than the typical vintage racer. The first picture shows Mark and his 1984 Royale RP-37 Sports 2000 racecar, at speed on the front straight at PIR in the Exhibition Class race. While he didn't complete the race, it was a real charge to have someone we know to root for. Mark said it was a real thrill to be on track with an F1 car and several CanAm cars, but he felt like a minnow in with

the sharks. It is also a reminder of the effort necessary to sort out a vintage racecar and make it a consistent runner. Even more interesting are his plans for the car, possibly changing the engine to the newly-approved Mazda MZR from the current MX-5. The goal of the new engine is to revive a popular class of race car, with a dependable and reliable power source. The MZR would be limited to match the current Pinto engine's 150 horse power until the MZR outnum-

bers Pinto powered S2s. At that point, owners intend to request the club to allow the MZR to be kicked up to approximately 185 hp by removing intake restrictors and changing the engine ECU maps. Though that still doesn't sound like much, Sports 2000 cars weigh just over 1300 lbs, with driver.



Mark Brandt - 1984 Royal - front straight PIR



Mark Brandt with his car



Saturdays PSMC Club showing

## Past Events ( Continued )

### The Gathering 2011 big success

#### By Charlotte Fellers

Eighty people came out for the 2011 version of the Great Northwest Gathering of Miatas, and each helped contribute to a renewed interest in the club's activities. Who would pass up a chance to win something as well as have a free lunch and also see old friends and new cars?

The day of the Gathering dawned sunny and warm so when the 45+ cars drove into Griot's Garage in Tacoma, they definitely had their tops down! The Show 'n Shine event got underway immediately, as folks pulled out their wax, detailing spray, and window cleaner to line up with a perfectly detailed car.

The day started with a demonstration of how to get the most out of the Griot's Garage's many detailing products so your car will glisten in the sunshine. We have been fortunate to have Griot's as one of the sponsors of our Detailin' Day for the past two years, providing free products to the club for that event. They also have an excellent outdoor picnic area and vast parking lot at their Tacoma store for our annual Northwest Gathering celebration, which everyone enjoyed again this year.

Following the demonstration, members were treated to a picnic lunch provided by the PSMC Board. Chefs Tom Millar and A. J. McGranghan cooked the hamburgers and board members Vickie Olsen and Charlotte Fellers served up the homemade baked beans and fresh green salad. Thanks to other board members who provided important backup support for lunch, including a run for bottled water completed by Past President Mike Springer, an additional gluten-free salad, provided

by Lillian Springer, and cake brought in by the Millars. Members Bob and Marti Mott helped out with tables, chairs, tents, and signs to provide much comfort and shade for the lunch portion of the day.

Competition for the three trophy plaques was fierce and voting was close, but in the end, there could be only one winner in each of the three classes of the Show 'n Shine event. After lunch, the winners were announced; but you won't be too surprised at who took home the trophies!



The winner in the First Gen division was Bret Anderson, who actually owns two identical Miatas. One is for driving while the other is for "show" and usually sits in the garage. When he brought it out Saturday, he confessed that it had less than 30,000 miles on it.

One of our most active members is also a meticulous car owner and never misses an opportunity to show his perfectly detailed car, which also gets a lot of garage time. Bob Mott's Second Gen was once again voted "best in show," beating out a lot of competition in this class.

The Third Gen vehicle to win the trophy was also a perennial favorite who claims he doesn't like to wax his car so he just uses spot spray and other

cleaners so it always looks good. Now, honestly folks, Brad Gibbs has won this event several times, so I am not sure I believe that he rarely waxes his car. He didn't disappoint and took home the Third Gen award.

A raft of around 20 raffle prizes also generated great interest with much excitement over the winnings. Thanks to Mindy Bohnas for creating the prize packages and building an excellent, enticing display to show them off. Board Member A.J. McGranghan was probably the most excited among

these, winning a coffee thermos with two travel mugs in a custom carrying case, donated by Miata International. Others were excited to win the three booklets put out by Mazda this year which features custom drives from nearly every Miata club in the United States and Canada. Our own Tom Millar, who is one of our Hall of Fame Past Presidents, contributed his Olympic Peninsula Run to the book.

We heard a brief overview from Jack Bailey,

one of the founding members of the PSMC, who was a key player in helping the club adopt the logo we are still using today. He had four samples to share and explained how we ended up with the current logo.

Thanks also to Treasurer Sean McGriff and his wife Pam, who completed waiver signing, signups for the Show 'n Shine, and ballot collection, as well as additional raffle ticket sales.

It just goes to show that the club is only as strong as its membership that steps up to help out where needed and take ownership of club events. Thanks to them, the 2011 Great Northwest Gathering was another historically awesome event.

## Past Events ( Continued )



**A Master at work**

**Pretty cars, all in a row**



**What's wrong with this picture?**

- 1. It's not raining**
- 2. No Miatas**
- 3. Only one person is eating**
- 4. All of the above**

## Past Events ( Continued )

### Flumerfelt Fling

**Editor's Note: This had to be the sleeper event of the year. I received not one, not two, but three write-ups. Obviously, a good time was had by all!**

**By Vickie Olson**

"OWTFUN" proclaimed the license plate on the Miata belonging to Bob and Sally Thomas. How true! August 13th was a warm top-down summer day; and driving narrow, winding country roads with a few surprising sights along the way, made the Flumerfelt Fling an "Oh What fun" day! I wondered how Keith and Gayle Newsom, who had organized the run, had discovered these hidden treasures so far off the main roads. It seems, based on my experience of two Miata runs organized by the Newsoms, you can count on seeing some surprising sights that make your head turn. Take for instance a series of telephone pole sized metal sculptures, and the giant dragonfly. I've promised myself that I will make another trip to the Olympia Farmer's market, where the run began; as well as the Olympic Flight Museum, the metal art that seemed to be a part of the wooded landscape. And I would especially like to return to Tenino to explore the inviting shops, where the group stopped to regroup and suddenly it became a 20 minute, bathroom, visiting, exploring stop. After a longer than planned stop in Tenino we resumed our journey southeast on SR 507 and Old Hy 99 past the Oregon Trail Marker, the Monstrous motorcycle and finally to Mary McCranks for a very relaxing and tasty lunch.

After lunching in Chehalis, the tour wound along scenic winding narrow back roads of Centralia, Rochester, and Oakville. As the Miatas meandered northeast back toward Olympia, the route took us through some of the narrowest; most scenic areas of the day. The D-Line road through Capital State Forest was so narrow in some areas one could reach out and grab the branches hanging over the road. The summer hadn't progressed to the point of turning dry, and the lush beauty of Washington was at its peak. I remember complaining about all

those cool rainy extended spring days we'd had, and now it suddenly paid off!

The next head-turner was at the Natural Area Preserve called the "Mima Mounds; those curious giant gopher hills that so far haven't been explained. One theory is they were created by pocket gophers, another is glacial movement. As the group neared the final destination of Tumwater Falls Park, we passed Black Lake. A landmark I had often read while traveling along I-5, but hadn't ever seen a lake.

As the group chatted at the conclusion of the run, I asked Keith how he'd discovered the roads we'd traveled. He dug out his Washington State Atlas and Gazetteer, a great resource for travelers or Miata run planners.



### FLUMER ZOOMER

**By Keith Newsom**

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Olympia Farmers Market, a flock of fervent Flumerfelters and their fascinating Flumerflivers formed a fine file and flashed forward to the frontier. Eleven Miatas, 21 drivers and copilots, and one dog enjoyed a great combination of blue roads, green scenery, and (eventually) blue skies.

On our way to lunch we took a lot of neat roads including our namesake road, Flumerfelt, which is just about as blue as they come. We saw a deer grazing alongside one road, and a lot of neat metal sculptures. We also visited a neat gift shop in Tenino – The

Iron Works.

We enjoyed a typically great lunch at Mary McCrank's, just south of Chehalis, and then took more fantastic blue roads, especially our all-time favorite through Capital Forest (D-Line Road on the west end, Bordeaux Road on the east). That's the road we call "Serendipity Street"!

We had a few surprises, such as a half-mile of road that had been ripped up for sewer work, and about five miles of chip-sealed road. Of course, none of this was there when we drove the course two weeks ago. It's called grin-and-bear-it time.

All Flumerfelters felt it was a fine fling.



### Pick-Quick eat-n-greet, August 10th By Duncan Johnson

Fifteen Miatas and some appropriate number of people zoomed to Fife on a sunny afternoon for greasy burgers, traditional fries, and thick shakes... and nothing happened! Those rod-n-kustom folks and their "cruise-ins" have nothing on us!



## Other Autos In Other Places

Greetings Fellow Car Enthusiasts:

On behalf of the FIAT Enthusiasts Northwest Italian car club I want to announce and invite your club members to participate in our Oregon Covered Bridges Tour on Saturday-Sunday-Monday, October 1-2-3, 2011.

This event is limited to 20 entries (since this is our first event of this magnitude we are limiting it to keep it intimate and within our management capabilities!).

This event is limited to pre-1980 sports cars, touring cars, all Alfa Romeos, all FIATs, Minis (contemporary and vintage), and Miatas (exceptions may be made-please inquire). We desire to attract like minded, *sporting* car enthusiasts as opposed to owners of only a limited selection of cars. As they say variety is the spice of life! Thus we hope to form a close knit group of like-minded individuals who enthusiastically enjoy driving on secondary roads and sharing a good time doing so!

Please refer to the attached

PDF information flyer for details (it is available for download at [http://www.fiatnorthwest.org/pages/info\\_handout.pdf](http://www.fiatnorthwest.org/pages/info_handout.pdf)). If paper copies are desired, please feel free to provide me with your mailing address and I will promptly send a few copies to you!

I know the scheduled date does interfere with some of your events, but I am sure you are well aware of how difficult event scheduling can be, I apologize. I hope you will give this invitation wide distribution within your individual clubs and I sincerely look forward to hearing from you...and sharing the road with you!

Thank you so much,

Bert Cripe, President

FIAT Enthusiasts Northwest

<http://www.fiatnorthwest.org>

[spiders@wavecable.com](mailto:spiders@wavecable.com)

# Oregon Covered Bridge Tour

## A Fall Color Classic Adventure Tour



On Sunday we'll visit five covered bridges in Oregon's Willamette Valley with time for wine tasting along the way. Sunday's adventure includes a box lunch and ends with a banquet meal in our own private dining room.

The third day takes us back into Washington and our final stop at the Olympic Club in Centralia for an optional lunch with time to reminisce, and say our good-byes.

A three-day weekend driving adventure for sports cars, touring cars, and classic cars on back roads of Washington and Oregon.

Each day begins with a continental breakfast. Our first day begins at Griot's Garage in Tacoma. We will spend two nights at McMenamin's Grand Lodge hotel in Forest Grove. Accommodations are European-style. All rooms feature fine wood furnishings and cotton bathrobes.



**Saturday-Sunday-Monday, October 1-2-3, 2011**

## President's Message Sep 2011

By Charlotte Fellers

I hope all of you have been getting out on the nicer days of August and doing some driving with the top down. I thought I'd share my adventures on a few drives I have done this summer.

First up was the Explore Oregon 2011, which my mom, Vera, enjoyed with me. It was held in central Oregon this year and we spent a day going on two shorter drives around the Silverton, Oregon, which is not far from Salem. Part of the fun on this trip was the Poker Run. I managed to make some Instant Driving Friends, who traded cards with me to get a good hand, but I got beat out by some ruthless poker players who managed to trade up to five Aces! I thought my hand was still pretty good, so I am picturing it here so you can see that I'm no slouch in the poker department. The Explore Oregon tour is always well-run with great venues and scenic drives around the country roads. One of our tours featured a stop at a buffalo ranch, and the owners were very gracious about giving us a tour of the farm and sharing how they got started in such an unusual vocation. We got up close and personal with the buffalo but we weren't brave enough to pet them.

If you haven't been to the Explore Oregon event before, consider going next year, when it will be held in Ashland, OR, and will be tied into the Ashland Shakespeare Festival. Go the Willamette Valley Miata Club's website to get the details....

And now for some drives from our own club. I did the annual Mt. Baker Run with the Sea To Sky Miata Club. Our club had about eight cars, while our friends to the north brought around 14 cars. We filled up much of the parking lot at Heather Ridge, where we were able to get some great views of the ski area and the surrounding areas. While it was a nice warm day with great weather, the park officials told us the upper parking lot still has 30 feet of snow on it so we could not go all the way to the end of the road. We saw a lot of bicyclers who were riding up the hill that we drove (yea, we aren't

known for exercise, I suppose). We enjoyed lunch afterward and everyone went on their way.

I made it south the very next Saturday to participate in the Flumerfelt Fling, hosted by Keith and Gayle Newsom of Olympia. Now, you may recall last month when I was a little baffled about what a "flumerfelt" is, so this month, I am happy to tell you that I have discovered the answer! It's the name of a short road someplace in Lewis County. Just to prove I saw it, I'm sending a photo to include in the Sounder. We drove on Flumerfelt Road for just a half-mile. That's not the real news on this drive, though. We drove past some fascinating yard art and also some beautiful farm country with gracious homes (read: large mansions). All in all, the Flumerfelt Fling was a terrific opportunity to see our friends and have a little fun along the way.

We are making plans as we go to press to put the final planning touches on this year's Great Northwest Gathering. We always have a great time at this event, which is one of the few times that club members can just get together and relax and catch up with old friends. I hope all of you managed to drop in for lunch and pick up one of our fabulous raffle prizes.

I want to remind our members about a few upcoming drives that you won't want to miss. The Red Mountain Wine Tour will take us to the other side of the state for some definite top-down driving and a chance to visit some wineries we may not otherwise see. Our leaders for this tour have completed the pre-run (twice, I believe) and they have reported to me that it's going to be a fun trip. That's why I signed up for this drive. Actually, I felt I should since I nagged these folks for weeks to put another wine tour together!

*[I can attest to the fact that she did indeed have fun on the trip, as did we all -Ed]*

One drive I have put on the calendar this fall is the Corn Maze Run, which will commence October 1 around the



South end. Washington's western region is blessed with many farms that host corn mazes in the fall. We will do a drive that takes us to one of the mazes in the area and then continue on to food afterward. *[Charlotte had to move this drive to the South end after she submitted this message. I have taken the liberty of removing the now incorrect info from her original note. The updated story can be found on page 3. -Ed]*

Finally, I want to put in a plug for the second Autumn Rallye, which will take place October 8. We kicked off this rallye as a fundraiser for the club a year ago, and this year, we hope it will grow to include more cars from more clubs and more people in general. Last year, we scheduled it in competition with the home opener for the Huskies. This year, that isn't the case, so all you Husky alums can't use that as your excuse this year! Come join us and see what all the fun is about. You can read details elsewhere in the Sounder on these upcoming events.

Until next time, I hope you get to feel some sunshine on your face!

-Charlotte

## Editor's Message

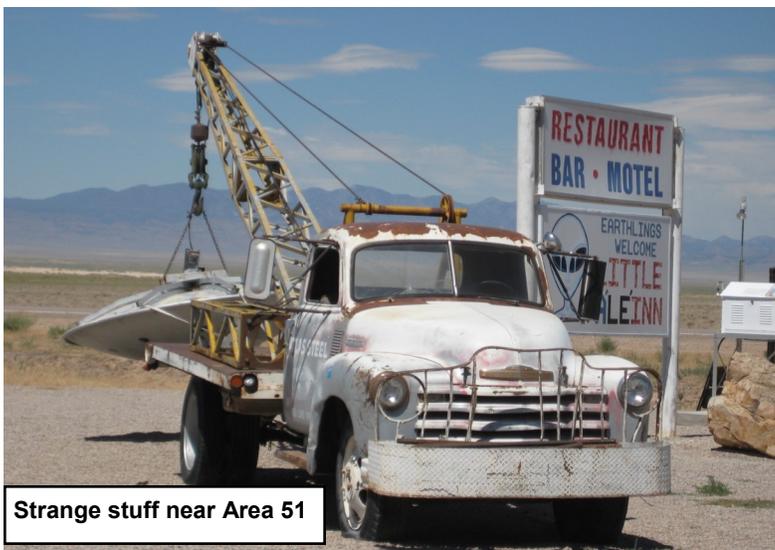
By Tom Mackey



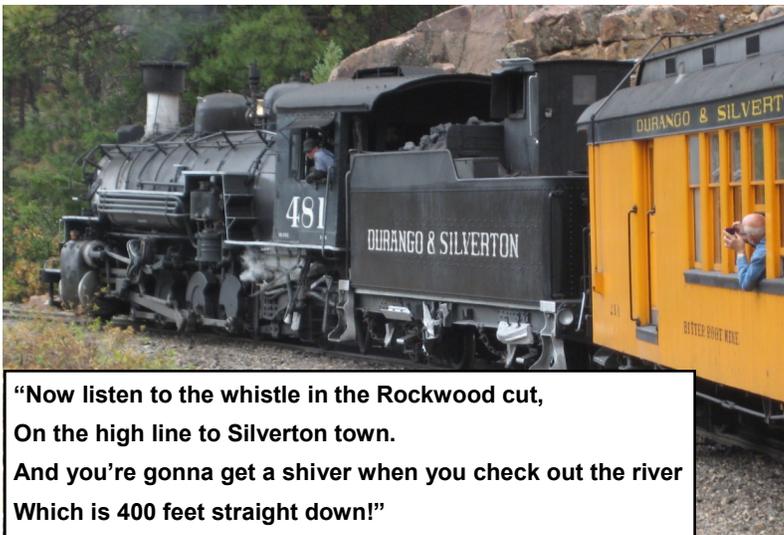
A little photo essay this month. We covered a lot of ground in 2.5 weeks!



Along the Pony Express trail between Dayton & Crystal Springs NV



Strange stuff near Area 51



"Now listen to the whistle in the Rockwood cut,  
On the high line to Silverton town.  
And you're gonna get a shiver when you check out the river  
Which is 400 feet straight down!"



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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 monthly newsletter and operating supplies constitute a financial burden that must be met by the membership. 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, and a check for \$30 (annual chapter dues) to:

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

You may notice that the Sounder looks a little different this month. We have decided to migrate away from Adobe Pagemaker for our newsletter designing and to Microsoft Publisher. Because Adobe no longer supports Pagemaker, we have had re-occurring problems with the software that we can no longer address. We think Publisher will continue to be supported in years to come and no matter who is the newsletter editor, they will have an easier time of using it since it interfaces well with other Office Suite programs.

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%*

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