

# Miata Sounder



THE FIRST OFFICIAL UNITED STATES MIATA CLUB

October / November 2012

## Fall Board Meeting and planning session at Mitzel's in Fife

**When: November 3 at 11 a.m.**

**Hosts: PSMC Board**

**Contact: [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)**

It's that time of year when things slow down for many Miata drivers, who prefer to garage their cars when rain happens. It is the perfect time to start dreaming of sunny days and thinking about drives we can do when it's sunny again. So get busy with your Thomas Guides and start planning a drive for 2013 so we'll have something to do next summer.

The Fall Planning Meeting will be Nov. 3 at Mitzel's in Fife starting at 11 a.m. with an early lunch, followed by the calendar planning meeting at noon. This is when the board starts working on the calendar for next year by filling in dates for possible day drives, weekend trips, and even longer jaunts to places far and wide, usually with the top down.

Worried about not ever doing this before? Well, don't be. If you need help, ask any board member. Most have planned at least one drive and can show you how to do it. It involves mapping out a route using either an Internet mapping service, such as Yahoo Maps or Google Maps or doing it the old-fashioned way, with a Thomas Guide of the area. Once you get the route mapped out, you need to drive it and test it to make sure it takes the right amount of time, features good paved roads for driving and hopefully some friendly curves and scenery. Think of a name for your drive and then you are off. We've had some pretty fun names for drives from years past that could provide inspiration for your drive, but most people are creative enough to come up with some original drive names that become part of the PSMC lore.

Next, you will want to do the drive a couple of more times, taking good notes (it is helpful to take a navigator on the trial runs) and you are set. It's best to plan your drive well in advance so you can write a "pre-run" publicity article for the Sounder and the website. If you think ahead, you can get it publi-



(Continued on page 2)

## 2012 Turkey Teaser

**When: Saturday November 10th**

**Host: Pam and Sean McGriff, 425.430.0255**

**Contact: [treasurer@pugetsoundmiataclub.org](mailto:treasurer@pugetsoundmiataclub.org)**

Join Sean & Pam McGriff for another one of their fun filled Turkey hunting tours which usually end with early dinner at a Mexican Restaurant. I have it on good authority that these events are a lot of fun. See Charlotte's President's Message where she relates her Turkey Teaser experiences. Please sign up using the RSVP feature on the club web site. Sean and Pam will contact you with the time and place to meet.



## New Sounder editor needed soon

It has been a very busy two months for YrObdntSrvnt, and even now, a month and a week after moving in to our new home, there is lots to do every day. I am sorry that the October Sounder never happened, really, as this would be a November issue based on the calendar. Next June will mark two years as the Sounder Editor, and will mark the end of my service; I can help the new editor make the transition between now and June. If you have any interest, please contact the PSMC Board. Thanks for all your support, and patience, over the past 18 months — I've learned a lot, had some trials, but had a lot of fun, too. It has been a pleasure to serve. -T

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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**

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cized several times before the actual drive. That way, people will get a taste of what's to come and get excited about going on your drive. This is not a hard sell in the PSMC. And, we exchange the information with other clubs who have car enthusiasts too, so you might have visitors from other clubs attend your drive. The last step is to print copies of your instructions and show up on the day of your drive to lead people through it.

Even if you haven't planned your drive yet, just start by thinking of a name for it and come to the Fall Calendar Planning Meeting and let the board know your intentions. This way, you will have a date firmed up so you can start the actual mapping and planning for your drive. The board tries to set up drives on different dates so the members don't have to choose what to do on any particular day—we want to get as many people there as possible. We also look at potential conflicts that might interfere with your drive, such as the opening day of boating season, the first home football game for the Huskies, or local festivals that might inter-

fere with your event. Sometimes you don't know the festival is happening and then on the day of the drive, you have to have a backup plan to go around it. These are good things to check out when planning the date and routes.

Following the planning meeting, we'll have a board meeting to conduct any business of the club. Everyone is welcome at both meetings and we appreciate any input you may have that will make our club stronger. If you can't make it to the November 3 meeting, please email your planned drives to club president, Charlotte Fellers, at [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com) with the title of the drive and the suggested dates and we'll get it on the calendar for you.

Directions to Mitzel's: Address is 5402 Pacific Hwy. East, Fife, WA. To get there, take I-5 to Exit 137. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right and into Mitzel's Parking Lot.



## Letters to the Editor — Feedback and your opinions are important.

Tom,

We REALLY liked the last part of your latest "Sounder" editorial concerning how the dreaded Social Networking has its shortcomings and it is a richer experience to get out to events. Take a bow!

In parallel, after the PSMC South Bend run we pondered to ourselves that on the surface it is kind of silly to take a convoluted route to some dumb parade in a backwater town a hundred miles away, but out there on the roads and among fellow enthusiasts there is a significant feeling that this is REAL. Perhaps it was not as overwhelmingly real as viewing the Normandy invasion beaches or the Roman Forum, but very real nonetheless. Roadster rides on a late summer day get the driver involved with the machinery and the surrounding scenery and that is the essence of Sports Motor-ing. It's not a video game, it's not a simulator, and it's not Disneyland. For people who don't "get it," that's just too bad.

Following on to that, and for your editorial amusement, I append the latest newsletter from our O-T-M club (*Other Than Miata—ed*), Corvettes de Olympia. You'll recognize our style in the lead article about the club's recent car show at Le-May. (FYI, Charlotte Fellers has also seen this story earlier, and Bob Mott actually dropped in on the show.) What's significant for PSMC relates to your comment about the increasing turnout at club events lately: CdeO was in a terrible or- ganizational funk about 12-18 months ago and couldn't muster the group energy to do much of anything radical. But then some club "outliers" started running a few things and just ignored the club "naysayers" and we got re-energized. Enough so that our smallish club (~45 member families) successfully pulled off this big Corvette meet. I'm watching for similar organizational energy to be pulsing through PSMC. Keep on zooming!

- by Duncan Johnson

## Upcoming Events — Something for Everyone!

*(The year at a glance — check website or future Sounders for updates)*

***Lots of good events have come and gone. Watch this space for new events after the planning session. —ed***

### November

- 3 PSMC Board Meeting @ Mitzels in Fife
- 10 Turkey Teaser Run
- 17 Food Collection and Publicity Run

### December

- 1 Puyallup Christmas Lights

## Halloween Party Cancelled

Once moving day occurred and we saw the mountain of boxes filling most of our garage, it became obvious that preparing for a party just six weeks out was going to be very difficult. It was not easy to do, but in the end we decided that putting our house in order had to be our first priority. We are very sorry that we could not host the party, as we both really enjoy entertaining. —Tom and Marilyn—

## The Gathering continues to draw crowds after 22 years

*By Charlotte Fellers, photos by Bill B.*

Around 60 people turned out for the Gathering 2012 at Griot's Garage. Another beautiful day helped everyone get time to shine up their cars for the annual People's Choice awards. When it was all said and done, the winners were:  
1989-1997 (M1) - Brett Anderson  
1999-2005 (M2) - Bob Mott  
2006-2012 (M3) - Betty Wiggins (a new member who just joined that day!)



Thanks to Mindy Bohnas and Tom Mackey for putting together the other interesting door prizes, which included baskets of all varieties and some great car care items.



Additionally, Griot's Garage did a tech class for our members to

show them how to use the array of car care products they have in their store. Members had not only a



great time shopping, but also a good time over lunch of burgers, salad, baked beans, and cookies. Griot's employees appreciated the free lunch provided by the PSMC.



A lot of buzz was created over the popular door prize of a Kindle

Fire that was donated by Milam Motors for our club event. A lot of raffle tickets were sold because many people wanted this prize, but ironically, John Boespflug, who claimed to be a computer novice, won the prize. He's probably still discovering all the stuff it can do!

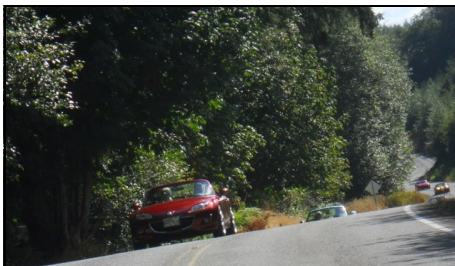


## Past Events

### Road Run to 2012 South Bend Parade

**By Dee Dahlke ('99 silver "Road Dancer") & Duncan Johnson**  
**photos by the Motts and the authors**

This year the dawn launch for the Labor day Weekend event took us to Norma's Breakfast & Burgers at Nisqually, where the Miatas started gathering before the employees even opened the doors. The liability release tells us that your reporters met regular members, new members who haven't even gotten name tags yet, and a prospective member: Mike & Lilly Springer, John Brau & Lois Blair, Geoff Goodman, Jane & Paul Hutt, and Patricia & Greg Olson. After stuffing our pie holes with Norma's yummy breakfast products we dodged a few raindrops on I-5 and US-101 freeways to get west of Olympia, but then deviated onto the twisties of Summit Lake Road, and later Mox Chehalis Road into McCleary, where we picked up the ancient 2-laner parallel to the freeway. The little towns were pretty sleepy on Sunday morning, but we did get to autocross around a fresh manure pile in Satsop, a semi-ghost town. No doubt that was preparation for dodging horse units' deposits in the parade, although it looked like a bear flop to this navigator. The sun came out just in time to illuminate a crudely hand lettered yard sign urging us to "Vote for Romney -- he isn't a communist." Could it be the work of some local retired John Bircher from the 1950s?



**Zooming the hills and curves of Blue Slough Road**

The midway pit stop and link-up point was the ever-popular Montesano Chevron station where our group added Sally & Bob Thomas, Laurie

Doering & Barbie Baker, Tim & Patti Stiles, and Marti & Bob Mott. Our little squadron grooved right down highway 107, right past the freshly burned out hulk of the Mary's River sawmill, which has to have been a serious blow to the local economy. We wish those folks well. Your leaders veered everybody off to Blue Slough Road, which may not be quite as technical as some mountain twisties we found in Oregon this summer, but its curves and cambers do demand respect, especially at, oh, say, 155% of the posted speeds. Blue Slough (blough slue?) popped us out on US 101 south of Cosmopolis, and when we saw we had a bunch of the pack safely onto the highway, Road Dancer got all wound up and was sweeping happily through the big curves over the summit, only to discover we had pretty quick outdistanced our own tour group. (That's a first.) Oh, dear. We cooled the pace and everyone caught up in short order for the rest of the run.



**Hurry up and wait at the parade staging area**

In South Bend we were joined by Dick & Pat Foster, which meant our road run had drawn eleven Miatas from Sequim to Battle Ground and everywhere in between, which is fairly cool. PSMC learned we'd be staged 47th of 55 or more parade units, right behind the local Republicans' truck, so we'd be following the usual glad-handing politicians and their helpers, who were stopping to deliver "earmarks," kiss babies, hand out candy, and all the

parade posturing that happens in an election year. Showing no biased reporting here, we disclose that the local Democrats were doing the same thing about a dozen units further ahead in the parade.



**Laurie Doering shows the results of a seagull attack at Willapa Bay**

Your reporters had brought our automatic bubble blowing machine, even fitted it with new batteries, because a parade Miata spewing forth more bubbles than old Lawrence Welk and his Champagne Music is always fun for the kids at the side of the road. The blower started OK, but refused to make more than a tiny trail of bubbles. Dee suggested, "Maybe it needs more fluid," so Duncan poured in a healthy extra shot. Wrong approach! The machine went BLORCH! and heaved a great belch of bubble making liquid all over the navigator's pants, the Miata's carpet, and the aforementioned liability release, which is now a bit blurry so if we got somebody's name wrong in this story we apologize. But wait, there's more! Somewhere back behind us in the Miata formation Laurie Doering's big sun hat took a direct hit from a seagull on a bombing run. Oh, ish.

So we paraded without bubbles, but with soggy jeans, and the locals enjoyed the PSMC group anyway. Cars with eye lashes were especially popular. At the finish we turned right into

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## Past Events (Cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

the high school parking lot as usual. We note the Republican unit turned the other way into a field, and we think it is highly unusual for that group to veer LEFT. Again, in the interest of full disclosure we report that the Democrats' unit moved over to the far RIGHT at the finish line, so this year's election must really be up for grabs. There were no cold hot dogs and warm sodas this year; instead participants got a bottle of ice water and a granola bar, nutrition that would come in handy in a few minutes.

Our group ducked out of the finish and took some back roads to a local restaurant which we had tested during our earlier test run of the route, and had hoped would accommodate our group after the parade. Alas, it was closed! They usually "close for the parade and then open afterward." Not for us. We blew right past it and motored into Raymond and invaded Slater's Diner, a nice little 1950s-theme place we used last year. They rose to the occasion, and we were well-fed in short order.

For a post-meal diversion, the Motts had arranged with nearby friends (names and town omitted for security) for the Miatas to drop in and see their show-quality restored 1912 Ford Model-T touring car. The "T" was reposing on the front lawn, magnificent



1912 Ford Model T

in the low afternoon light with bright red paint and gleaming brass radiator and other trim. (This car was before Ford de-contented the Model-T to "basic black" to make it cheaper and speed production.) It even had a bulb horn, the kind where you squeeze the rubber bulb (with owner's permission!) and it makes a flatulent noise like "Snorrr!!" Not even the "ah-oooh-gah!" of an electric klaxon from modern times, say 1928. The Miata enthusiasts were all over this horseless carriage and bursting with questions, because the T's technology (or lack thereof) is totally foreign to any modern or even semi-modern car. Even the exhaust note is an unusual mild fluffa-fluffa, backed up

by odd mechanical whirrings from within the engine. Then it hit your reporters: This Model-T is a hundred years old. Think about that: a car one hundred years old. It can remember when Titanic hit the iceberg! Even for the oldest of us petrol-heads present, the "T" went out of production decades before our adolescent automotive sensibilities were formed, so it has been an antique curiosity for as long as any of us young 'uns could remember. And it's still a nice way to flash back.

The PSMC group disbanded and went our separate ways home. Our choice was to get in one more roadster run across our favorite highway 6 through the farms and forests of the Willapa Hills as the sports motoring season begins to wind down. "We have had our summer evenings, now for October's eves."



Old car, young Miata enthusiasts

## "Hot" and "Cold" by Rex Siegmeth

Giving an exciting new meaning to "Hot & Cold"!

That is, if you're a Miata enthusiast... (smile)

These pics are looking westerly over the Naches Valley...



Cold... (1/23/12)



Hot... (9/11/12)



## Past Events (Continued)

### Mahogany and Merlot (and Miatas) at Lake Chelan 2012

*Where member Paul Jaeger rides a Thunder Boat!! (by Tom Mackey)*



Miss Thriftway - byTom Mackey

This was a very popular event, as you can see from the following post-event email exchange:

**<Paul Jaeger>**

OK....so I called Campbell's to check on reservations for next year's Mahogany & Merlot. Rate went up just a little to \$114 for my room (paid \$110 this year). I'm all set to watch Andrew go for his ride next year.

**<Tom Millar>**

Great pics and what a wonderful weekend. You and Allen really out did yourself, including making the weather cooperate!

**<Ray Houghton>**

We had a great weekend. Sounds like Paul is excited to go again next year and thanks for the reservation info

**<Allan Ohlsen>**

I'm still basking in the post-glow of our trip. I better give Campbell's a call also.

**<Paul Jaeger>**

Yes....I just discovered that "weather control" button in my Miata.....I wish I had read the owners manual 10 years ago!! Glad you enjoyed yourself. My Nephew (who works at the hydro museum) will have enough hours in to earn his hydro ride for next year. Even if we do not do a "formal" trip, I will be there for the weekend. It really was nice to kick back and get away for 3 days. The off season rates at Campbell's make it a pretty good deal.

We met up at Monroe where folks grabbed some coffee, snacks, and in our case, a quick car wash, and headed over Highway 2, where the fall colors and sunshine made for a very enjoyable drive. It was not too long before we made our first stop at Tunnel Hill Winery for lunch. The little produce store next door was well stocked with freshly picked apples and other produce, so it was easy to gather some hard sausage, cheese, and fruit for lunch.



Photp by Ross Scott

Campbell's resort is within walking distance of the entire town of Chelan, and the festival, and the setting is as nice as you could want. I was too tired to socialize much, but I understand that the after-dinner party went on for several hours and everyone in attendance had a great time.

The next morning we all started to make our way down to the festival where many vintage hydroplanes representing many racing classes were being fussed over by their owners and crews.



Paul in Oh Boy Oberto @ 130MPH

Paul had donated a bunch of time to the Hydroplane and Raceboat Museum, so was slated to get a ride in one of the vintage unlimited hydroplanes. We watched some of the early runs, but when the schedule got delayed, we opted to explore some of the



Back to the pits, still right side up!

old two-lane roads leading up into the hills — Paul would get his ride sometime in the afternoon.

We returned from several hours of exploration to find Paul was still coming down from his dream of a lifetime — he got to ride in "Oh Boy Oberto", achieving a top speed of 130 MPH. He was grinning like a 10 year old boy left in a candy shop!



Paul checks one off his "bucket list"

Dinner was at the Lake Chelan Winery where the owners allowed us to park in a row on their lawn for a great picture opportunity. The BBQ and Wine were wonderful, as was the ambiance.

This trip was one for the books, and we are hopeful it will occur again.

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## Past Events (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

So next year, if you want to make tentative plans, the Mahogany and Merlot festival will be held Oct 4th, 5th, and 6th.

For more information on organizations associated with vintage powerboat racing, see <https://www.apba-racing.com/> and <http://thunderboats.ning.com/>.

*The three uncredited photos were probably taken by Allan Ohlsen. —ed*



Photp by Ross Scott

### 2012 Autumn Rallye a done deal

*By Charlotte Fellers, photo source unknown*

An overcast day with temperatures in the 60's didn't seem to bother the 23 carloads of folks who turned out for an exciting Hound-n-Hare Drive to wrap up the PSMC M & M Autumn Rallye, 2012 version. This year, winners received huge trophies to commemorate the event.

In case you have never done a Hound-n-Hare run, here's how it works: You get a fe directions to get you out of town and then you watch the roadside for a series of signs. If you see a sign, you have to decide at the next intersection if you should turn left or right or go straight. Sometimes there's only two choices, but if you make a choice and it's wrong, then you need to turn around and try another choice. When you make the correct choice, you'll see a sign to let you know you are going the correct way. At the end of the drive, you turn in your mileage and the one with the closest "uncorrected" mileage to the exact drive is the win-

ner.



Ross Scott, left, a PSMC Member who won the best "uncorrected" mileage and Collin Smith, a member of the MC Club, who won the best "Corrected" mileage trophy

Competition was stiff for the prizes, but in the end, PSMC Members Ross and Nancy Scott (navigator) won with the best uncorrected mileage. The actual mileage for the drive was 72.2 miles, and they were off by just seven-tenths of a mile. In this run, drivers

also had the chance to correct their mileage, taking into consideration all the times they turned the wrong way or got confused by the signs, or whatever. The winner in the best "corrected" mileage category was MG drivers Collin and Sharon Smith (navigator) in their 1978 MG. Their "corrected" time was just a half-mile off the actual mileage.

Every car also took home a commemorative glass filled with M&M's to designate this was a drive that had lots of Miatas, a few MG's and a few Fiats and Hondas.

Lunch and the finish line was in Elbe at the Mt. Rainier Railroad Dining Company, where all guests had a chance to celebrate the sun that eventually made a showing and catch up with friends old and new.

In addition, every participant donated either cash or canned goods for delivery to the Maple Valley Food Bank.

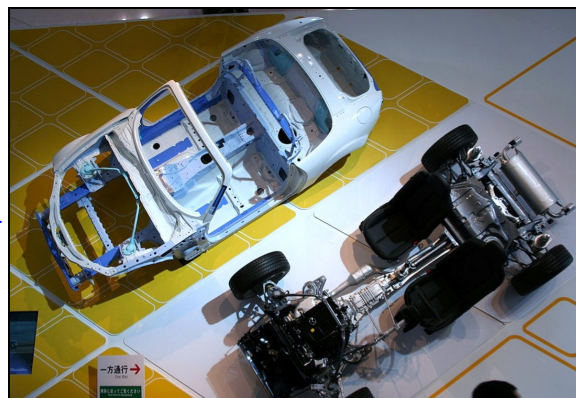
I received this note and photo from Rex Siegmeth:

*Wasn't able to be with the PSMC in Seattle today for their rally. So, I stayed home and did a "super-fine" detail to my 2006 Mazda MX-5 GT.*

*Thought I'd take a pic of it when I was in the midst of detailing it. I might mention that Yakima is experiencing an extreme amount of smoke in the air today...*

*so there's a strong possibility that I might have inhaled some of it.*

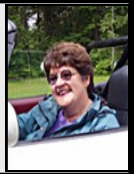
I'm thinking he has way too much unstructured free time :- ) —ed





# President's Message October & November 2012

By Charlotte Fellers



## October's President Message

Greetings one and all! I am sure you have all had a fabulous time tooling around in this stunning weather for the past couple of months. I never dreamed we'd have 40+ straight days of beautiful sunshine, which is perfect for us Miata lovers. Too bad my right leg is in a cast and I couldn't even take the car out...

On that note, I am into my second and final cast now. I have a glow-in-the-dark cast that actually lights my way in the dark! I will never be lost with this one. I have a walking shoe that is two inches too long but it works to help me start putting weight on the ankle. I noticed just recently that it is starting to itch around the point of the break and if it isn't itching, it throbs. Don't know what any of that means, but the doctor assures me that all is well inside my ankle. I believe October 10 is when the cast is scheduled to come off and I'll be able to drive my "new to me" car again.

On September 21, I was fortunate to get invited to ride with Carol Kus, who just got a different Miata herself, to do the 2012 Autumn Rallye. She had a 1993 Red that somebody ran into and totaled. It was probably one of the darkest days she's had in recent months. But she bought a nice second generation car from one of our former members and former presidents, Bonnie Lohkamp, and had it shipped from Florida. I thought it was a fabulous ride, especially with the top down on the way home.

You can read more about the rallye elsewhere, but suffice to say, a good time was had by all. We had some mischievous high school girls who took a few of our signs near the end of the run, which, fortunately, did not impact the drive too much. I guess they thought our homemade "M&M" signs were too cute to pass up! We were so glad to welcome some folks from the local MG club and the local Fiat club. I hope you will consider checking out their websites and going on some of their drives in the next year. The crossover to other clubs' drives is a lot of fun and you will enjoy these fun people that we all met for the first time.

Coming up next is this month's overnight drive to Lake Chelan for the Mahogany, Miatas, and Merlot Drive to Chelan, where you can enjoy some vintage wooden boats, a visit to local wineries, and the company of your fellow Miata drivers. And, at the end of the month, be sure to block Oct. 27 for a visit to Tom Mackey and Marilyn Huckleberry's home for the Halloween Party.

**(Unfortunately, we had to cancel — see my Editor's Message —ed)** As we wind up the summer driving, it's a good time to head inside for some hot apple cider and fall feasts. There are some drives planned by other clubs that you can find elsewhere in the Sounder.

Don't forget to send your own events into our newsletter editor, Tom Mackey, at [tom.mackey@gmail.com](mailto:tom.mackey@gmail.com). The more the better!

Now get out there and enjoy these last gasps of summer while you can!

## November's President Message

I am sure that fall colors have arrived pretty much all over the Puget Sound, and what a scene we have had this year! I have enjoyed driving to work and back just to see the various bright fall colors this year. I don't know if they are always this bright but I think we are seeing some especially vibrant leaves this fall.

I thought I'd report that I am now driving again because I got the cast off my broken ankle in mid-October. I took the Miata out for a

drive the next day but it was a little difficult to drive since my muscles were still pretty stiff. Since then, I have been doing many loosening exercises and things are looking up. I am down to no crutches now and still limping but feeling more like myself all the time. Those of you who have had similar injuries in the past will understand this: It sure feels good to be upright again!

As we edge on toward November, I always am reminded that we have our annual planning meeting coming up on November 3. This is the one where we sit down with a calendar and try to map out what we'll be doing in the coming months. If you would like to come and hear what's in store for 2013, we are meeting at 11 for lunch at Mitzel's in Fife and then start the planning meeting at noon. After we plan the calendar, we'll have a short business meeting, which you are invited to attend as well.

If you have ever thought about hosting a drive but didn't know how, this is where your board comes in handy. We can help you with the details as most of the board members have hosted at least one drive over the past few years. If it doesn't go as you expected, don't worry. We tend to be a pretty forgiving group, just happy to be driving a Miata in the sunshine whenever possible. Nothing wrong with that! I still recall my very first drive planned by me, with some help from my friends Tom and Cindy Smith. Well, it was mostly Tom, as people realized after they completed the drive. We didn't think things through very well, and the drive seemed a bit of a disaster to me, but at the end of it, we did the Carpinito Brothers Corn Maze near Kent, followed by food at my house in Auburn. By the time it was all over, everyone thought it was a great drive! I think the food always helps make people happy in the end. I'd like to think that things have gotten a little better in the "planning drives" department over the past four years, but who knows? Either way, people always come and seem to have fun.

One of my favorite drives is coming up this month. It's called the "Turkey Teaser" and Sean and Pam McGriff host it. We usually leave from some place in Renton and drive around a few backroads looking for—you guessed it—turkeys! You have to count the turkeys along the side of the road when you see them because there's a prize involved. I did the run the first year I was in the club and loved it. One year I brought one of my nieces along and she got a big kick out of it. I think there's some element of getting to the finish line first involved too, but I am not sure as I haven't been able to do this drive for a few years. I am usually last anyway. I have no idea what they do if you get there first. You should check it out if you like a fun day drive. It's happening on Nov. 10. Check the website for any details as they become available.

That brings us up to the busy month of December. We don't have any events planned at this point, but feel free to host one if you are moved. We can get it on the website and hopefully get some folks to turn out for it. Until next time, Happy Trails!





## Editor's Message

By Tom Mackey

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## Adventures in moving

We are getting settled into our new home, but there is still more work to be done. I think that is my new reality — there is always going to be more work to be done. We are now living on what is generally considered a “hobby farm” — we have six acres, of which half an acre is a lush lawn. Unless you count the deer munching our shrubs, we have no livestock, but that may change come spring. Marilyn is starting to think about a vegetable garden. We've had a little time to relax and the strain of the last several months is starting to ease away.

For awhile it was touch and go... We needed to be completely out of our Mill Creek house by 4:00 of the same day we could first start moving things into our new house. That meant we needed to pack and move a lot of things into storage. Luckily a friend of mine, Sam, called and insisted on helping. In retrospect, we could not have done it without him. We worked hard for three days straight, and we were able to negotiate an extra day to move out. Sam, Marilyn, and I packed and moved the final items out of Mill Creek, and we finished with 20 minutes to spare.

I took a few extra days off work and spent them moving things out of storage, and continued once I went back to work, emptying the second of our two temporary storage units by the first week of October. That's when we noticed the yellow jackets swarming around one of the peaks of the garage roof, outside our media room. That's interesting, I thought — they really like that sunny exposure. Then I started to find dead, and not so dead, yellow jackets all over the media room over the garage. And then Marilyn got stung while she was vacuuming them. It took an exterminator to evict the little trouble makers, luckily before they did any damage to the ceiling. They were coming in via a light can. Their nest was in an area not accessible from the attic so he dusted the entrance point and over time the hive went inactive.

I don't have a riding lawnmower (yet), and it takes a solid four hours to mow my new lawn 21" at a time. My new hobby is looking for a good deal on a lawn or garden tractor on Craig's List!

I'm not complaining, though. The place is beautiful, and peaceful, and still close in to stores and services. I've lost weight and taken my belt in three inches. Our increase in activity has us both feeling better than we have in years. Our friends think we are crazy taking on such a large responsibility, but we think we've made the right choice.

We missed the country side. Out here, one experiences nature first hand; facts and reality, not feelings, direct your actions. Yellow jackets outside in a tree are beneficial. Yellow jackets in your attic will chew through your ceiling. Some you leave alone. Some you have to eliminate.

As the rains start I look back at the beautiful summer we had and the great trips we took with the club, and feel very blessed with our good fortune and good friends. I am looking forward to many more good times in the future. I'm hoping you can join us out on the road in this beautiful land. -T

## CHIEF OFFICERS

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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:

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

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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!

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