

Miata Sounder



THE FIRST OFFICIAL UNITED STATES MIATA CLUB

July 2012

Last call for "Two Lanes to Oregon" Road Run

When: Weds. & Thurs. July 11-12, 2012

Event Hosts Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson,

phone 243-845-2424, e-mail ToadHallWA@yahoo.com



Meet at the Chevron station off the SE corner of Exit 81 (Mellen St.) from I-5 in Centralia, Wash. on Weds. July 11 and leave at 9:00 AM. [If you're mapping it, specific location is: Mellen Street Freeway Market, 1232 Mellen Street, Centralia, WA 98531] Have a full tank of gas, bring your CB radio, bring snacks/drinks, and bring your rustic restroom supplies. The first day's lunch is a no-pets venue, so if you must bring Fido or Fluffy we'll steer you to an alternate food source.

This run travels at leisurely "cruising speed," not "cornering on the door handles," and we make frequent stops when curious. That includes covered bridges, wine tasting, quaint shoppes, and pub lunches both days. We'll run down the two-laners well to the west of I-5, have lunch at Forest Grove, and stop the first night in Eugene. (You should already have made your hotel reservations.) The second day we'll stay west of I-5 to Lorane, (wherever that is) then cross over, have lunch at Roseburg, and get into some serious forest and mountain driving, arriving in Ashland in time for the opening ceremonies of Explore Oregon. (We hope.)

Please RSVP on our PSMC web site calendar soonest so we know who's coming! For late-breaking questions call or e-mail the hosts as above.

We presume you have already registered separately with WVMC for the Explore Oregon meet.

See <http://www.oregonmx5.com/> for updates.

Miata Garage Sale Meander!

Host: Vickie Olson (vickieo456@yahoo.com)

When: Saturday July 28th, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Cedar River Boat House in Renton



The Miata meander / garage sale run is in the final planning stages. By the 28th of July we should be looking at a beautiful sunny, summer day! The drivers' meeting for the beginning of the run will be at 10:00 at the [Cedar River Boat House](#) parking lot in Renton at [1060 N. Nishiwaki Lane](#). The run will take us up over Cougar Mountain, across the Issaquah Valley, up onto the Samamish plateau and through some beautiful scenic back roads of Carnation, Fall City and Snoqualmie. Whether or not you wish to take a side trip to a garage sale or a roadside fruit stand is up to the driver. It just means you'll need to be able to return to the spot where you diverted from the route and make the adjustment for the altered mileage. Even if you get totally lost, just make your way back to the Olson's for a relaxing backyard barbecue. Meat, potato salad and beverages will be provided. Bring a dessert or side dish if you wish

From I-405, take Exit 2, towards Renton/Rainier Avenue. Continue one mile northbound on Rainier Avenue, past 2nd Street. Turn east (right) at the traffic light at Airport Way. Airport Way bends to the left and becomes Logan. Turn west (left) on North 6th Street and follow it to the end - this

leads into the Cedar River Trail Park. Once in the park, turn north (right) on to Nishiwaki Lane. Go to the end of the street and park. Walk through the gate and across the ramp to the Boathouse. The Boathouse entrance is on the north side of the building.

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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

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Summer Patio Party!

When: July 7, 2 p.m. onward

Where: 5702 43rd Ave, NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Hosts: Tom and Lindanne Gores,

Contact: lindanne@comcast.net or call 253-851-5110

Come on over to Gig Harbor for an informal get-together. By this time, the weather should be nicer and it should be a good time to be outside. We will serve dinner items from the grill along with sodas, water, wine, and other beverages. If you want diet soda,

please bring it as we don't keep diet soda around. If you want to bring a bottle of your favorite wine to share, please do so. Contact the hosts for additional items to bring. Please RSVP on the website.

2012 Gathering of the Miatas!

When: August 4th, 10:00 a.m.

Where: [Griot's Garage](#) in Tacoma

Hosted by PSMC Board



Gathering unites the club!

By Charlotte Fellers

It's time again to mark your calendars to attend the annual Gathering of Miatas on August 4. As we did the past two years, we have scheduled the cabana at Griot's Garage in Tacoma for our event this year. If you have never been to Griot's in Tacoma, then you are missing out! It's a great place to stock up on your car polishing supplies. As one of our partners, Griot's Garage welcomes us every year to host our gathering in their parking lot. Additionally, they sponsor a one-hour tech program where they explain the use of the car maintenance supplies they sell and why they are such good products.

So, we'll start off at 10 a.m. with the "Drive-In" to Griot's and to give you an hour to spiff up your car. Then the Tech Program begins at 11 a.m. followed by lunch, which will be cooked and served by your PSMC Board of Directors. Following lunch, you can view the Miatas and vote for the People's Choice winners. We'll wrap up the day with the raffle of some great door prizes. Certainly one of our most popular door prizes this year will be a Kindle Fire, which was donated to the club by Milam Motors, another of our corporate friends.

Upon check-in, you'll receive a nametag and one raffle ticket. You are welcome to purchase as many raffle tickets as you like for the wide variety of prizes we'll have for you to win. Tickets will go for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The day should wrap up by 2 p.m. so you can drive on to an evening event elsewhere.

Directions to Griot's Garage: Traveling I-5 South, take Exit 132A (S 38th St West toward Tacoma Mall)

At the stoplight, bear right onto S 38th St. Go 3/4 of a mile to Griot's Garage on the right (white building with red stripes.) Last intersection is S Lawrence St.

Traveling I-5 North: Take Exit 132, take second 38th St exit after overpass (S 38th St West toward Tacoma Mall) Bear right onto S 38th St. Go 3/4 of a mile to Griot's Garage on the right (white building with red stripes.) Last intersection is S Lawrence St.

From Gig Harbor: On HWY 16, take exit for Union Ave.. turn right onto S Union Ave. Turn left onto S 38th St. then another left onto S Lawrence St. Griot's Garage is on the left (white building with red stripes.) Lot entrance is behind the building.

Upcoming Events — Something for Everyone!

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

Items with question marks are still being decided

July

- 4 Kingston Parade
- 7 Summer Patio Party at Gores
- 11-12 Two Lanes to Oregon
- 13-15 Explore Oregon
- 21 Opel MG Car Show
- 28 Garage Sale Run
- 28 Silverdale Whaling Days Parade
- 22 China Town Evening Parade (See update below)

August

- 4 The Miata Gathering @ Griots
- 10-12 Coastal Cruising to Oregon
- 18 Port Townsend Run (?)
- 25 Whidbey Island Run

September

- 2 South Bend Parade and Run
- 8 Kite Festival (?)
- 22 Autumn Rallye @ Coops by PSMC BOD
- 29 Leavenworth Parade

October

- 5-7 Mahogany, Merlot, and Miatas
- 5-8 Backroads to Bavaria (Club Miata NW)
- 27 Halloween Party (Tom and Marilyn)
- 31 Safe Trick-or-treat in Bremerton

November

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

December

- 1 Puyallup Christmas Lights

Late Breaking News — Chinatown Parade: Update by Mindy Bohnas

Hi Everyone,

Just wanted you to know that we guessed wrong on the date of this parade at the beginning of the year. It will really be on the 22nd of July, not the 29th, like was showing on the website until just now.

I can tell you that the Japanese group does need 5 cars and that their Bon Odori festival is the same day, so the folks carrying them who bring passengers will have to drop off those passengers at or near the assembly point first, so we can carry the girls safely in regular traffic in the passenger seat from their festival over to the assembly point. We will be meeting them at 4:45, so will probably need to drop

off any passengers around 4:30. It's not that far, but the lights are quick and it's just not safe any other way in normal traffic.

I believe Bill is finding out from Dennis Su, how many Chinese girls need drivers. You can find a little more info out on the website: <http://www.seattlechinesechamber.org/chinatown-seafair-parade/>

If you can no longer attend now that the date has changed, please Un-RSVP on the website, or just send a reply to me, so that I won't send a parade request email to you regarding this parade next week sometime, OK?

Thanks, -Mindy

Reminder from the editor: If you are hosting an event, please send me updates for the Sounder. If I don't have new material, I can't publish new material. Thanks for all your help, cool events, articles, patience, and feedback.

-Tom the Editor (tom.mackey@gmail.com)

Past Events

Back Roads to Snohomish / Grab that Thing!

By Tom Mackey & Marilyn Huckleberry, Miata photos by Ross Scott

Cows On The Road! Cows On The Road!



Tom and Marilyn grabbed their radios and broadcast the urgent message back to the 20 Miatas behind them that there were Cows On The Road! Two moo machines had managed to find their way out of their pasture and decided it might be fun to join our back road run along Norman road. Several of our little cars had to wait patiently as the black and white beasts moseyed from one side of the road to the other – eventually cars and cows parted company and we continued on our way.

On an overcast, slightly chilly almost summer day, twenty-one brightly colored Miatas showed up for the Back Roads to Snohomish **Grab that Thing** run. What a site they were winding through Everett and into Marysville, where the hosts planned to gather everyone back together and let them Grab That Thing. The Thing, as it turned out, was the first of three bags of Legos, with which the Real Thing would be built!

Next the run turned towards Puget Sound, along Priest Point, through Warm Beach, and we were zipping along past old farm houses on Norman Road when we encountered the bovine blockade!

After the first stop at the Lakewood Shell station everyone grabbed another set of Legos and we headed towards Granite Falls by way of Arling-

ton. A couple of Miatas missing in action provided us an unexpected stop at the famous Jordan swinging bridge and gave us time to grab some more Legos and enjoy the Stillaguamish River.

With cell phone signals in the zero to partial-bar range, and nothing but static on the hand sets, it was a while before we learned that someone has

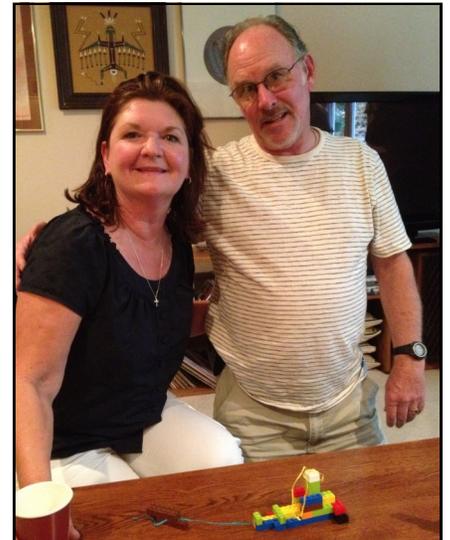


suffered a mechanical break down and a tow truck had been requested. Once that was sorted out, we continued down the Jordan Road.

It was getting late when we reached Granite Falls, and we decided to cut the run short and head straight to Tom's house via highway 9. Not everyone went straight. A few Miatas veered off right and left, seemingly insistent on reaching Snohomish, but all managed to eventually make it to the Barbeque. We enjoyed hot dogs, grilled vegetables, plum cake, jello, broccoli salad, and baked beans, and the rain even held off until most of the cooking was done.

Many Things were created while people enjoyed their late lunch, and dear readers will find pictures of all the crea-

tions that managed to make it back into the house once the rain started in earnest! It was decided that the creators of the 2nd place Thing would get

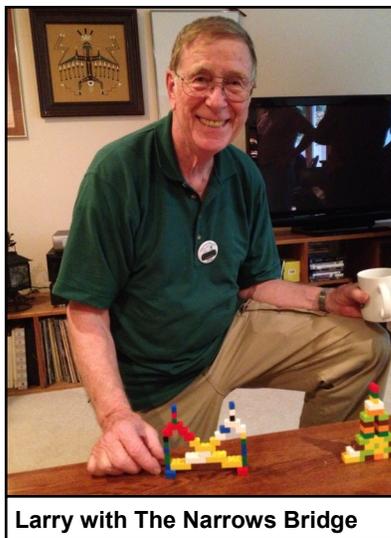


Tammy & Kim with Tugboat & barge

their picture on the front page of the Sounder, and the 1st place winners wouldn't have to have their picture on the front page – however the host/ editor in charge of pictures chose to relent, and so the pictures are safely



here inside this issue. The third place team left early without taking credit for their Thing, so they remain anonymous.



Larry with The Narrows Bridge

Road Tour to 50th annual "Come And Play On Labor Day" Parade

When: Sunday September 2nd

Hosts: Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson

Home phone 253-845-2424 or e-mail ToadHallWa@yahoo.com

Meet for breakfast at 8:00 AM at: Norma's Burgers @ I-5, 10322 Martin Way East, Nisqually, WA 98516. Take exit 114 off I-5 either direction, and Norma's will be on your right just after the traffic light at end of ramp. Gas is available at this location.

Leave on the road tour to South Bend promptly at 9:15 AM for a cruise of about 75 miles. If you wish to join us enroute, there will be a midway pit stop at about 10:00 AM at Monte Square

Chevron on SR 107 just off the US 12 interchange in Montesano. We'll arrive in South Bend around noon; the parade starts 1:00 PM. If you and your sports car will be at the ocean beaches for the weekend, feel free to meet the rest of your club in the parade staging area. This is the golden anniversary (50 years) of the South Bend festival, so expect a lot of fun activities.

Bring your Miata's parade decor plus your own ear protection in case we get

staged in front of a fire department and their sirens.

After the parade we'll go for lunch at a local establishment.

Hosts' cell phone is 253-327-4368 if you need to contact us at breakfast or the parade. That's for day of event only; it's not turned on at home.

Please RSVP on the club web calendar so we can tell the South Bend parade folks how many cars to expect.

Miata, Mahogany & Merlot Tour (UPDATED)

Where: Monroe (10:30 a.m. start) to Chelan, Washington

When: October 5, 6, 7 Hosts: Jaeger/Ohlsen

Wine lovers! Gearheads! Nostalgics! Do you like vintage wooden boats, vintage unlimited hydroplanes, and Chelan area wines? How about staying at a premium Chelan waterfront resort for a bargain price of \$110-\$138 per night? This is the PSMC event for you.



Join us for a fun three-day weekend tour as we venture off to Lake Chelan for the Mahogany & Merlot festival held in Chelan. We will be staying at Campbell's Waterfront Resort, walking distance to the festival. The festival features wine of course, but also many vintage wooden pleasure craft on display, some offering rides. The big attraction though are the hydroplanes from the Unlimited Hydroplane Museum. Remember Miss Bardahl, Thrift-



way, Oh Boy! O'Berto, Hawaii Kai? Experience the roar of these piston-engine boats as they run around the lake course. We are also planning a wine tour of the many wineries in the area.

UPDATE: Friday meeting time is 10 a.m. at the Chevron station, east end of Monroe on Hwy 2. We will depart at 10:30. Please bring your own lunch that we will be enjoying at Tunnel Hill Winery, our first stop in Chelan. A country store is located next door for your needs of fresh fruit and cheese, etc.

If you enjoy wood-fired BBQ featuring baby-back ribs, wild salmon, grilled prawns or smoked chicken, we have scored a 5:00 p.m. reserva-

tion for Saturday at "BBQ in the Vineyard" at Lake Chelan Winery. The owner has even offered to let us park/display our Miatas on the grass while we are there.

Sunday, we make our way back west, but if you have not enough fun, we will be stopping in Leavenworth taking in a little Oktoberfest with a brat & beer. As a bonus, there is a possibility our club will be part of the festival where we can display our Miatas as a club.

Sound like fun? RSVP for the event then call Campbell's Resort 800-553-8225 or 509-682-2177 to reserve your room for Oct. 5th and 6th. Mention "Mahogany & Merlot" (group number 230749) to get the discount. Don't wait. Campbell's has several rooms blocked for this event, but is offered to all festival participants (not just us) so it will fill up soon. Questions, please contact Paul Jaeger or Allan Ohlsen.



President's Message July 2012

By Charlotte Fellers



The calendar says it's summer, but I am not so sure. My poor tomato plants are crying for some sunshine. So is my new Miata!

Now, if you read the column last month, you know that I sold my 1990 White to a very nice young man who was planning to go off to college and enroll in an auto body class where he could put a new coat of paint on my beloved car. I thought I found the car a good home. I was enjoying parking the other car in my garage, but Fate has a way of changing things up pretty quickly. About a week after I sold my car, I happened to be on Craig's List looking at Miata ads. I came across one that just looked too good to be true. I found a 1999 with all the extras, fairly new tires, a new battery, and less than 50,000 miles on it. I drove right up to the University District and drove that car and bought it the same day. It's a beautiful car with leather seats! Automatic locks and windows! And even a CD player! Right in the front console! Did I mention leather seats? In case you are wondering, it's Emerald Mica Green with a tan interior.

I doubt you'll hear anything more about me buying different cars for awhile. So...on to the "work" of our great club. We have some fun times this month for anyone who can get away for a few days. Probably my favorite getaway is the Explore Oregon run, hosted by our friends, the Willamette Valley Miata Club, coupled with the Two Roads To Oregon pre-run, which is being planned again this year by Dee Dalhke and Duncan Johnson. This is an extended version of the Explore Oregon run because it's in Ashland, which is a

pretty good drive from this part of the world. If you signed up for it, I am sure you will have a wonderful trip. Duty calls, so I won't be there this year, but I'll be thinking of you.

We have a late addition to our calendar for July. Tommy and Lindanne Gores are hosting a patio party on July 7, starting at 2 p.m. It's informal and you can catch up with other Miata friends there. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate so we can all enjoy some outdoor grazing.

Another big event is on July 28 when we have the first-ever Garage Sale Run. Vickie and Dave Olson are hosting this event. This one sounds like a lot of fun. You will meander through back roads, hit some garage sales along the way, purchase a few treasures, and compete for valuable prizes at the end. And, as usual on Miata drives, there's food at the end too, so it's a win-win for everyone. Check out the details in this issue of the Sounder and on the website.

We also have a few parades this month if you are inclined to dress up your car and put beautiful young ladies in the back to drive down a street of adoring fans who cheer appreciatively (what's not to like about that?) One of my favorite parades is the International District, which happens the last Sunday this month. We get to drive either Chinese or Japanese royalty and at the end we get a free meal... again, a win/win in my book!

Check out other events coming up and in this month's Sounder and get your cars out on the road!

Opel Gathering

When: July 21st, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m,

Where: Carrs Restarurant, 11006 Bridgeport Way SW, Lakewood

Hosted by Opel GT's of Washington & John Boespflug, 253-581-5372

YrObdntSrvnt doesn't know very much about Opel GT's, except that they are John B's favorite car (until he bought his first Miata, anyway!)

The lady Phys Ed instructor at my Junior High school had a bright yellow Opel GT, this back in '67 or '68 — she sure was cute, and the Opel GT was, too! I guess I had a crush on them both...



Anyway, if you would like to learn more about Opel sports cars, stop on by Carrs Restaurant in Lakewood on July 21st and I am sure John B will be happy to share his knowl-

edge and love of Opel GT's with you.

Tell him Tom sent you, and keep a lookout for a cute (probably retired) gym teacher ziping around in a yellow Opel GT.

-T

Editor's Message

By Tom Mackey

tom.mackey@gmail.com



I can't say it went off without a hitch, but most people had a good time, the rain mostly held off, and the food was good...

One learns by doing, and I learned a lot putting on last month's "Back Roads to Snohomish / Grab That Thing!" run. In talking to a couple that have been involved with the club since its earliest days, it is obvious that I could have done some things better. I am also told that in the boxes of archived Sounders in my possession, there exists a comprehensive guide on how to put on an event. Until I dig that out, I'd like to put forward some of the lessons I learned in the hopes that it will make the event you are planning go smoothly.

- New events are popular. Not only was this a new event, it was the first big drive of the season, and we attracted a large turnout. This was a good thing, but we scrambled a bit at the last minute to accommodate everyone.
- Research what is happening in towns along your route. We found one of the streets we planned on using blocked off because of the Strawberry Festival in Marysville.
- Recruit a spare "Engine and Caboose" if your RSVP list goes over 10 cars. We had 21 cars turn out, and trying to keep everyone together and safe was difficult and slowed the pace of the entire event. If we could have split the group in two, it would have been far easier to thread our way through traffic.
- Try to make mostly right-hand turns. At a large intersection where we needed to turn left, we went past it and made 3 right-hand turns. Left turns can be made as long as there is plenty of visibility and low traffic volumes.
- Google Maps is your friend. After we had the route planned, I put in the start and finish for each half of the trip, then zoomed in and clicked at key intersections, adding each as a destination. I used the snipping tool in Windows to create a resizable graphic of the finished route and pasted it into a MS Word document.
- Plan in advance how you will handle a break-down situation. We had someone lose a timing belt (I think) near the end of the line, and we lost a lot of time trying to figure out what happened.
- Communication can be difficult in rural areas. Distances cannot be spanned by CB nor FRS radios, and cell service can be spotty. This is another reason to keep groups of cars down to 10 or so.
- People are trying to watch what they eat and appreciate good food. I appreciate Marilyn for pointing this out and helping put together an improved menu.
- Don't be afraid to cut the run short if necessary. The corollary is to make the first part of the run the prettiest. I got lucky on this one.
- Keep a sense of humor when things go wrong — it's a lot easier to recover if you are laughing.

Keep the top down and the GPS set on "Avoid Highways" -T

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	Sean McGriff

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Special Graphics	Mike Springer

MEMBERSHIP

The club operates as a non-profit organization and relies primarily on volunteer services. However, sponsorship of events, the publication and mailing of the 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 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 Bohmas
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