

MIATA SOUNDER

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



The Gathering '06

Sunday, August 27, 2006

Coop's Miata, Maple Valley:

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost of Event: \$15.00 per car & driver;
\$10.00 per passenger



At last year's Concours d'Elegance. Photo by Maury Fugitt.

Hosted by your PSMC Board

Well, August is here and that means it is time for "The Gathering!!!!" We have just a few short weeks until this tremendous event and I can't think of a better summer activity than this. The event has been a PSMC annual tradition for the past fifteen years! This event has lasted so long for one reason and one reason only: it is a load of fun, pure and simple. Although not a driving event, it is a terrific way to catch-up with friends, enjoy good food and participate in all sorts of Miata Events and Games. Once again, Coop has been gracious enough to offer his place to "gather."

This year promises the return of all of your favorite games plus some awesome new ones! Members who attended last year will all remember trying to frantically pack their trunks for time in the Trunk Stuffing Game. Also, who could forget trying to park in the garage while blindfolded?

There will once again be a full lunch with all sorts of dishes and desserts provided by Armadillo Catering. We will need your lunch **RSVP by August 13th** if you wish to eat. The cost will be fifteen dollars for the driver & car and ten dollars for passengers. You may pay at the door on the day of the event. However, advanced payment is highly encouraged. If you do not wish to eat the catered lunch, that is more than fine. However, the cost will be the same (Please see below for the address in which to send in your check.).

Don't forget about the annual Concours d' Elegance that is also part of 'The Gathering.' That's right, we will be having a judged car show for all of our gleaming beauties! There will be several categories so you are sure to find a place perfect for your Miata. If you would like to have your car entered in the show to be judged, you will need to have it all ready and in the Car Show Area by 11:30 AM.

In addition to awards being handed out for the Car Show, we will also be having raffles for tons of great-donated prizes from all sorts of vendors. I think that it is safe to say that this is one event that really offers something for everyone and is not to be missed. Make sure you check the Web Site for more information as well as to RSVP to the event.

Please send checks to: Bonnie Lohkamp, 7701 Hardeson Rd. #29, Everett, WA 98203

CALLING ALL VETERANS!



PFC R. W. Moore

On Saturday, November 11th, the Smiths & Webers will be hosting a Veteran's Remembrance Run. We would like to honor all of our PSMC Veterans, so please, send in your Service Photo along with your service information to Cindy Smith @ tomaci@verizon.net for a special surprise relating to the run.

So, who is PFC R. W. Moore? Which war was he in? And what was his unit? Come to the Veteran's Remembrance Run and find out! And for those of you who want to unravel the clues to these questions, there will be a special prize! Clues can be found somewhere in this and upcoming Sounders.

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PUBLISHING

The *SOUNDER* is published monthly (as close to the first of the month as possible). The deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. All articles and ads are due by then, so as to be included in the following month's publication.

Event Masters are encouraged to get their event info to the editor as soon as possible to ensure all members can plan for the event.

Send your submissions to:

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 1/4 page \$35.00
 1/2 page \$65.00

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ps-miata.org

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

upcoming events

Twilight Run

Saturday, August 12, 2006

Hosted by Weber & Locke

Join us for an evening of exploring many of Seattle's neighborhoods as we discover the magnificent vistas of some of her lesser known viewpoints. Imagine a top down cruise on a warm summer evening along tree lined drives overlooking Elliott Bay and Puget Sound as the sky displays its many gorgeous hues as the Sun sets in the West. What could be better than Miatas in the Moonlight?



We will meet at the Hamilton Viewpoint at the North end of California Ave. in West Seattle. To get there take the West Seattle Bridge exit from I-5. Take the Admiral Way exit to the right and wind up the hill and turn right at California Ave. Follow California Ave. approximately ¾ mile to the Viewpoint on the right. Bring a picnic basket and join us for a meal about 5PM.

The Twilight Tour will begin at 6PM. Please arrive on "empty" since there are **NO COMFORT FACILITIES** (Restrooms) at the viewpoint.

Dog Day Afternoon

Saturday, August 19, 2006

Seward Park; 12 Noon - 3:00 PM

Hosted by Donna & Denny Mudie

Come on out and join us for a Dog Day Afternoon. This is a day to enjoy each other and /or our pet, so there is no drive. Instead we will just be meeting at the park for a fun-filled day at noon. So pack a picnic, grab some beverages and bring your pets – or just yourself – for a picnic lunch at Seward Park.



We will have Bocce, Frisbee and Croquet. If you have some games, please bring them along. We will also be walking around the park, which is about 2.4 miles and is a very easy walk with restrooms on the way.

Please **RSVP by August 6th** so I can plan our day. I will also have goodies for all the pets that show up and need to figure out how many Dog Treat Bags to put together. To check out the park, please go to www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/sewardpark.htm

Directions to Seward Park:

I-5 Southbound: Take the W Seattle Bridge/Columbian Way Exit (exit 163A); Keep left at the fork in the ramp; merge onto Columbian Way S.; Turn slight right onto 15th Ave. S.; turn slight left onto S Columbian Way; turn slight right onto S Alaska St.; Turn right onto Rainier Ave S/WA-167); turn left onto S Orcas St; S Orcas St becomes Lake Washington Blvd S; go 0.14 miles.

I-5 Northbound: Take the Swift Ave Exit (exit 161) towards Albro Place; turn right onto Swift Ave. S.; turn left onto S Eddy St.; turn left onto Beacon Ave. S.; turn right onto S Orcas St.; S Orcas St becomes Lake Washington Blvd S; go 0.14 miles.

LeMay Car Show

Saturday, August 26, 2006: 9 AM - 5 PM

Marymount Academy & LeMay Estate

PSMC Coordinator: Mike Springer

Please check the website for more information on this event or go to www.lemaymuseum.org/nws_events.php?cidx=139



upcoming events

Run Around the Bases II, Double Play



Sunday, August 20, 2006 @ 9:30 AM at Cheney Stadium

Hosted by Dennis Thompson & Joanie Hughes

Let's head out to the ballpark and watch the boys of summer doing the second best thing in the sunshine – play baseball. Of course the best thing to do in the sunshine is cruise in Miatas! Actually, in this event you'll be able to do both. On Sunday, August 20th, we'll meet at Cheney Stadium in Tacoma. From there we'll cruise to three beautiful parks in T-town. All right you wise acres, there ARE beautiful places in Tacoma. If you don't believe me, just ask those who attended Run Around the Bases last year. Then we'll return to Cheney Stadium to watch the Tacoma Rainiers play the Las Vegas 51's (the Dodgers AAA team). I can't promise an exciting game like last year (after being down around 9 runs early in the game, the Rainiers overcame the deficit in ONE inning, and went on to win the game), but with the sun shining, a hot dog in one hand and a beer in the other, it can't be a bad day.

All those who plan on attending the game will first get their tickets upon arriving at Cheney Stadium. After a short drivers' meeting, we'll depart at 10:00 AM for 1st base: Garfield Park. From there we'll go to 2nd base: Point Defiance Park and then 3rd base: Titlow Beach Park. Exciting, fun-filled baseball-related activities will occur at each base with "valuable" prizes awarded to the winners. Finally, we'll drive back to Cheney Stadium in time to grab some "healthy" baseball stadium grub before the 1:35 game. NOTE: this event depends heavily on the weather since ALL of the activities take place outside; we're not talking Safeco Field with a retractable roof here. If you have any doubts on the morning of the event, please call Dennis or Joanie at (253) 761-9987 (home) or (206) 293-3539 (cell).

Directions to Cheney Stadium:

From I-5: get on Hwy 16 headed toward Gig Harbor; take the 19th St. EAST exit; go past the large, brick Metropolitan Park District building on the right and take the first right at Cheyenne St. continue into the Cheney Stadium parking lot and look for the Miatas close to the ticket booth.

From Hwy 16 eastbound: take the 19th St. EAST exit (you'll get a lovely 270 degree turn with hopefully no red lights to spoil the fun); go past the large, brick Metropolitan Park District building on the right and take the first right at Cheyenne St. continue into the Cheney Stadium parking lot and look for the Miatas close to the ticket booth.

Mixed Doubles: Miata & Run Round Rainier V Corvette Cruise out to South Bend

Sunday, Sept. 3, 2006 @ 8:00 AM

Country Cousin Restaurant,
Centralia



Sponsored Jointly by PSMC & CdeO, with Breakfast & Tour hosted by Dee Dalke (PSMC) and Duncan Johnson (CdeO)

MEET FOR BREAKFAST at 8:00 AM at Country Cousin restaurant in Centralia, Wash. Take Exit 82 (Harrison Ave. and Outlet Malls) off Interstate 5, go west on Harrison, immediately west of the freeway turn right into restaurant. If you can't wake up that early for breakfast, you may join us in the parking lot in time to launch on the road tour.

LEAVE the restaurant between 9:00 and 9:30 AM for a scenic road tour through the Willapa Hills to South Bend. The Miatas will lead the tour this year. Yes, there will be rest stops enroute.

ARRIVE at South Bend about noon for the 44th consecutive running of the "Come And Play On Labor Day" parade. If you are already at the ocean beaches for the weekend you may join us there; we'll be staging behind the police station. Parade starts 1:00 PM. Both clubs are registered entries and we may carry or escort dignitaries. This is an easy parade, and it goes right

Mixed doubles continued on page 10

Run Round Rainier V

Sunday, September 10, 2006

Enumclaw Safeway @ 8:30 AM

Hosted by Stuart Sabel

zoom



zoom

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 10th, 2006 for the fifth annual "Run 'Round Rainier!" This event is a full day of beautiful vistas, forests, and great twisty roads. We will circumnavigate majestic Mt. Rainier, starting and ending in Enumclaw, WA.

This drive is 178 miles long and will take us to a maximum elevation of 6,400 feet (at Sunrise). Each car will be required to pay an entrance fee of \$15.00 at the White River entrance to Mt. Rainier National Park. Those folks 62 and over can buy a lifetime Golden Age Passport for \$10.00.

We will stop at Paradise for lunch. Bring a picnic lunch, or visit the snack bar at the Jackson Visitor Center. With construction underway at Paradise, parking may be an issue (i.e. a bit of a hike from the cars to the visitor center).

We will have a driver's meeting at 8:45 and will depart the Enumclaw Safeway at 9:00 am **sharp**, returning at around 4:30 pm.

If attending, please RSVP for this event!

[Ed. note: Image of Mt. Rainier from www.nps.gov/mora]

upcoming events

North Cascades Hwy Tour '06

Sept. 23-24, 2006

Hosted by A.J. McGranaghan, with a little help
from Mindy Bohnas & Bonnie Lohkamp



Q: Would you like to attend the Leavenworth Parade, but don't like driving over and back home again on the same day?

This event is designed to fill in where the Leavenworth Parade leaves off. After the parade, we will drive somewhere for a late lunch/early dinner, then on to Chelan to stay the night. (Plans are still in the works for lunch, but our early ideas are in either in Cashmere where there are several choices, or on to Wenatchee to have a nice meal at the Chateau Faire Le Pont Winery. <http://www.fairelepont.net>)

Q: Would you like to tour a beautiful highway on one of the last great days of Summer but can't make it to the parade?

Then RSVP, make your reservations and meet us at the Lodge in Chelan! We will start off early Sunday morning from Chelan following Alternate 97 through Pateros, Methow, Twisp and onto Hwy 20 through Winthrop and over the North Cascades to Marblemount, Darrington and terminating in Arlington.

Plans include a stop in Winthrop for lunch, some quick sightseeing, and fuel if needed. This daytrip will include many beautiful vistas with relatively low traffic density (since it is Sunday) and some possible high speed (safety encouraged) avenues of travel. The entire tour will take approximately 4 to 4.5 hours (including the lunch stop).

We have a block of 10 rooms reserved at the Best Western Lakeside Lodge, located at 2312 West Woodin Ave, Chelan, WA 98816. Phone (509) 682-4396. Website: <http://www.lakesidelodge.net> There are 3 rooms with 2 queen size beds and 7 rooms with a single king size bed. All rooms have microwaves, mini fridge, etc. and a balcony. Free continental breakfast provided. The rate we have negotiated is \$129.00 per night (reg. \$199). **Please mention the Puget Sound Miata Club and call the local phone number above.** This rate is good for Friday as well as Saturday night. **Please use a credit card to make your reservation no later than August 20, 2006, then use the RSVP on the website to let us know you are coming.**

Please check the website or in the September Souder for updates and directions. And don't forget to RSVP for the Leavenworth parade also. (If you are doing both events). For questions please contact: A. J. McGranaghan - mcgranaghan@juno.com, Mindy Bohnas - fun4sun@wavecable.com, or Bonnie Lohkamp - blohkamp@comcast.net



Image from www.cascadeloop.com

Return to Tofino: Dead- line Approaches!

October 11-15, 2006

Hosted by Bill Aycok, Don Bojarski
& friends



Well, you've read about it. You've heard all about it from PSMC veterans. Now's the time to get it together and make your reservations for Tofino (with a little help from our friends) in October.

The plans are coming together. We'll be meeting up in Tsawwassen, BC on Wednesday evening, October 11th, then taking the BC ferry to Vancouver Island on Thursday. Continuing across the island, we'll arrive at Middle Beach Lodge that afternoon. Your event hosts have some activities in mind, but mostly the time is yours to plan, or not to plan. If you want to sit and watch the waves roll in, Middle Beach is the place to do it. Some of us may be taking a trip to the hot springs, or just walking the shops in town. There's a great dinner planned at the Lodge for Saturday night, and probably another group reservation will be made at a local eatery Friday night.

The scenery is unbeatable. The socializing with your PSMC friends will be fun. All you need to do is make the reservations. **There is a September 1st cutoff on reservations so we can finish planning the trip and making arrangements.** Here is what you need to do:

First, call the Middle Beach Lodge at (250) 725-2900 and book a room as soon as possible. Mention that you're with the Puget Sound Miata Club group and make the reservations for the three nights, October 12 – 14. Many different types of rooms and price ranges are available. Note that there are two facilities at Middle Beach. We'll be staying at the Headlands. Please check out their website at

www.middlebeach.com

Second, you should make a reservation at the Coast Tsawwassen Inn for October 11. We have a block of rooms available there at a discounted rate of \$92 CDN, plus taxes. Call them at (800) 943-8221 and mention that you are with the Puget Sound Miata Club. If you decide to drive up and meet us Thursday morning, let us know so we can get you the correct ferry time.

Finally, email Bill Aycok at totrod@mac.com to get on the confirmed list for the trip. More information will be provided to the people on the confirmed list, so be sure to RSVP.



The Headlands. Image from www.middlebeach.com

event aftermath

Guns And Rose Tour

By Dee & Duncan ('99 Silver "Road Dancer")

The "Guns & Roses" title to this event was a bit off-putting at first, and we didn't know whether to bring an auxiliary car "heater" like a Smith & Wesson 9mm automatic with an extra round in the chamber and/or a couple of squirt cans of garden fungicide or insecticide. Then we doped out that we were supposed to "gun our engines" and "take time to smell the roses." The tour was a tribute to PSMC's late member Shirley Pence, who with husband Bob, had invented the concept of this run several years back. Indeed, at the start of this Maury-and-Sandy production, we received goodie bags with multiple road trip necessities, and each also held a beautiful hot pink rose to set the atmosphere for the day.

So we had gathered just outside Port Orchard on a bright, clear summer day with the temperature heading well into the 90s, and the roster showing these attendees: Maury Fugitt and Sandy McKnight (leaders), Fred & Sandi Holler, Dee Dalke & Duncan Johnson, Tom Herrera & Elaine Webster, Dennis & Linda McDowell, Steve & Barbara Harrold, Dave Whooley, Harold Frombach & Pat McCuish, Ivy Ivancich, Bob & Marti Mott, Bert & Rhonda Paul, Bob & Sally Thomas, Larry & Bonnie Lohkamp, Dave Conover, Stuart Sabel, Jeff Jay, Bob & Bonnie Langdon, and Larry & Leanne Long. How's THAT for a Sunday cruise turnout, sports fans? (Hope we didn't get any listings too wrong.) After the drivers' meeting, the cars staged and "Road Dancer" assumed our usual place as the caboose (last car in the procession): the driving is mellower back there, and if you do feel the Need-For-Speed, you can always attempt to catch up to the tour leader. We supposed, that given the theme of this run, we'd be better termed the "tail gunner." Anyhow, we enjoy the position, and, following a series of complex turns, it's fun to radio the Road Commander on how the back of the pack is doing so they can adjust their rate of progress accordingly.

The first phase took us out Lake Flora Road, then north and east toward Gorst, then skirted the western fringe of Bremerton and Chico almost to the great submarine base, and then along the east shore of Hood Canal toward Seabeck. To give you an idea of how twisty the roads chosen were, in one section of 12 turn instructions, we had ten lefts, including six lefts in a row, and the route did not double back on itself! Somewhere along here a pace car inserted itself into the pack in the form of a doddering grandfather-type in a Cadillac sedan, so we radioed ahead, "don't wait for us, we'll catch up to you at the finish." The Caddy was a Seville STS, so it could have done a lot better, but not with that driver. Eventually the geezer feebed off to a side street and we set off in warm pursuit of the Miata pack, encountering a beautiful '67 Corvette roadster heading the other way and emitting quite the authoritative seven-liter rumble. Seabeck Highway was wonderfully traffic-free, even in the village itself, and we noted multiple Bald Eagles stalking their lunch on the low tide mud flats. This leg of the tour ended with a rest stop at the little-known but appropriately-named Scenic Beach State Park, where an amused ranger squeezed us into all his available parking spaces. What a view! Doubly so, especially if you like an historic home in the foreground and looking across the brilliant water to snow-capped Olympic Mountains. Tough to take.

Guns continued next column

Guns continued from previous column



What can you say about a view like this at Scenic Beach Park? Photo by Duncan Johnson

Leaving the park, our route took us on some seriously remote country roads, roughly following the east side of Hood Canal down toward The Great Bend (the canal's "elbow," if you are geographically challenged), passing such outposts as Holly, Dewatto and Tahuya, wherever the heck *they* are. Why take the main road with two full lanes when there are lots of parallel routes that are barely a Miata-and-a-half wide, and which haven't been straightened since they were Indian Hunting Trails? Blind corners, decreasing radius turns, loose gravel, we've got all the elements of Sports Motoring. (Also more Bald Eagles everywhere we looked.) This navigator shifted back into his Pro Rally mode, barking instructions and assistance to the driver as we "pressed on," and he even got to yell, "Going Deep!!!" twice for one corner. We are going to add Dewatto Road to our listing of "private roads" we don't tell the general motoring public about. Things got even better after the "Left up hill toward Tahuya" route instruction. As we powered up from the waterfront road, we found ourselves in an uphill right hairpin which flowed directly into an uphill left hairpin. The driver was on the verge of "getting a little behind on her steering," but she kept her foot well planted in second gear and the high-winding Miata maintained its composure well, although we're glad no Local Authorities were observing our drifting demonstration from the nearby Port of Dewatto Headquarters. The latter is up on a hilltop, miles from any recognizable port. Hmmmm? All too soon we emerged on North Shore Road, which logically enough is on the north shore of the tip of Hood Canal. The pace slowed to a reasonable cruise here, due to traffic, pedestrians, and many driveways. We noted a first-generation Corvette undergoing a body-off restoration in somebody's garage, and we met a steel-bumper MG-B in original baby blue, the latter sports car certainly a spiritual ancestor of all Miata roadsters. This route finished at Belfair State Park for a cool-down lap. Speaking of those spiritual ancestors, there was a vintage Triumph Spitfire with period-correct Minilite/Panasport wheels



Past meets future at Belfair State Park. Photo by Duncan Johnson.

Guns continued on page 6

event aftermath/autocross

Lights, Camera, Miata! AKA: Doing the Drive-In with Dustin & Drew



Some PSMC members were privileged to attend the Lights, Camera, Miatas event on July 8th - a beautiful warm summer evening. After the usual introductions, formalities, and good natured teasing, attendees were presented with goodie bags – a nice and generous touch provided by Dustin and Andrew Locke. We then embarked on a well thought out drive from Kirkland to the Valley Drive-In located in Auburn. The Saturday evening drive wandered through Bridle Trails, then along the shores of Lake Sammamish. What a wonderful evening for top-down cruising, listening to our favorite tunes, and enjoying the open air aroma of BBQ (trying to figure out which BBQ to crash) with our Miata friends.

The movie we intended to see – *Cars* was not being shown at the drive in, despite being advertised both on line and in the newspapers. Our group elected to see *Superman Returns*. The movie wasn't great, but the drive to the movie, the goodies, and the company were superb – the right people showed up. We spent an enjoyable evening under the stars by the light of an almost full moon. Top down driving and movie viewing in the Northwest doesn't get much better!

[Above image from <http://superman.ws/fos/thescreeen/returns/splash-full.jpg>]

No Vacancy

By Cindy Smith

Unfortunately, due to all the excellent submissions this month, Part III of the Madonna Inn escapades must be delayed until next month



April and August are always rough months to try and include everything that is submitted: April is the start of the Miata season and August is the height of it. Also, in order to keep the costs down for the club, the Sounder is limited to twelve pages; therefore, a lot of shuffling has to be done. Rather than exclude any article an event host or member sends in, I would rather exclude my own. Besides, it gives me extra time to tweak my stories.

So I hope y'all don't mind waiting another month for the Madonna Escapades to return. I do like to get the past events out as soon as possible after the event, but sometimes that is not feasible – especially being the long-winded writer that I am!

I'm looking forward to putting the finishing touches on next month's story; it's been a fun one to write. Especially given that it is always the quiet ones you need to watch out for.

August Autocross

For details see wwscc.org

- 1 BSCC Monthly Meeting at Tony's Pizza
- 5-6 SCCA Packwood ProSolo at Packwood
- 8 NWR/SCCA Solo Committee Meeting at Bill's Bodacious BBQ, Renton
- 8-10 Evolution Driving School at Packwood
- 12-13 SCCA Packwood NT at Packwood
- 13 BSCC Event #6 at Bremerton
- 19-20 SCCA Wendover ProSolo at Wendover, Utah
- 21 WWSCC Council Meeting at Rogue Brewery, Issaquah
- 26 OR/SCCA – Event #7 at PIR South Paddock
- 27 NWDE – WWSCC Championship #7, Clothing Optional at Everett



"Smile Dieter! You're on Candid Camera!" Oh, I guess he can't smile since he is passed out from having so much fun autocrossing. Photo taken by an anonymous photographer.

Guns continued from page 5

on a trailer in the park. And a rare '61 Impala "bubbletop" coupe cruised by on the highway. Truly a day for unique car spotting.

The final segment of the tour was a short hop from Belfair State Park to Bremerton National Airport where we all unwound and told bench racing stories over a late lunch at the Airport Diner as general aviation planes and corporate jets did their own version of zoom-zoom out in front. The Airport Diner had a Sunday brunch buffet which was both bigger and better than anything one ought to expect at a small place like that, and the price was right (\$8.00 a head). Patronize this establishment! Over in the back forty beyond the runway, the drag racers were blasting through the Bremerton Motorsports Park, and that reminded us that this day we had pretty well circled the site of the proposed local NASCAR Speedway. Whatever happens with that project, with it will necessarily come even more development and in a big hurry. The area we cruised will get "discovered" by the freeway masses and we back roads zoomers will then be forced to motor elsewhere for our Sunday drives. *"Gather ye rosebuds while ye may, Old Time is still a-flying; and this same flower that smiles today, tomorrow will be dying."* (Robert Herrick)

autocross

Under, Over, #4 & #4

By Denise Williamson

Under, over, North, South, and West.... Autocrossers were all over Washington in June.



The June 11 event in Bremerton (BSCC #4) was the most sparsely attended for PSMC drivers in June. Even though only two PSMC drivers were there (out of 150 entrants), they both brought home trophies. Tom Slipp won a third place trophy in Sports C in his '91 Miata. Dieter Beldi not only won a first place trophy in Sports Prepared, he also had the top un-indexed time of the day. Good job, guys!

The next championship June event was SCCA #4 on the 18th in Packwood "in the shadow of Mt. Rainier". The weather was beautiful, and the covered pits were appreciated for the sun protection rather than rain protection. There were 145 entrants, eight of whom were PSMC drivers. Chris Halstead drove his '02 Miata to fifth place in the Stock 2 class with a CS indexed time of 44.917. In the Non-Stock 2 class, Enrique Garcia placed sixth with a CSP indexed time of 45.307, while Brett Wilson was nipping at his heels with a seventh place finish with a CSP indexed time of 45.340. "Mighty Number Ninety" and it's driver, Dieter Beldi, won a second place trophy in the Street Modified 2 class with a 52.502, and Rickey Carlson placed fourth in his '90 Miata with a 60.487. Tim Irwin was the only PSMC driver in the Tire Class, and he did a great job by winning a second place trophy with an ES indexed time of 46.804. In Open Pax, Glen Hernandez won a fourth place trophy with a GS indexed time of 42.127, and Alan Dahl placed seventh with a CS indexed time of 42.673. Even though Glen and Alan were probably pretty worn out from their hard work at the previous day's "Pro Practice", they respectively had the fourth and seventh top indexed times of the day.

June 24 was "Understeer", a WWSCC event in Everett. 140 entrants were there, including five PSMC members. Dieter Beldi led the charge with a first place trophy and a time of 40.815 in Open Street. Not only that, he had the third unindexed Top Time of the Day. In ST3 (Street Tire-Touring), a class many of you may not have heard of, Russ Hill placed fourth with an STS2 indexed time of 38.336. The most popular class for PSMC drivers at this event was Pro 1. Glen Hernandez won a second place trophy with an HS indexed time of 33.542 in a Mini borrowed from the 2004 HS National Champion; Alan Dahl placed sixth in his '06 MX-5 with a CS indexed time of 34.239. Brett Wilson borrowed a '93 Miata and placed 12th with an STS2 indexed time of 35.247. If I'm not mistaken, this was Brett's first foray into Pro 1. Not bad!

As you may have guessed, "Oversteer" was held June 25 in Everett. A very similar course was used, but run in the opposite direction for the 132 entrants. Dieter again won the Open Street class, this time with a 39.658. In the Street Tire-Touring class, Russ came in sixth with an STS2 indexed time of 36.583. The second place trophy in the Pro 1 class was again won by Glen (GS indexed 32.556), and eighth place was taken by Alan (CS indexed 33.124). Top unindexed times of the day went to Dieter (second) and Alan (eighth).

Under, over continued next column

Under, over continued from previous column

What's an Index? In many of my articles, I'll often mention an "indexed" or "unindexed" time. "What the heck does that mean?", you ask. An index is kind of like a golf handicap, and is used in some classes to try to level the playing field. For example, the SCCA Tire class has many different types of Stock and non-Stock cars in it. If you are driving an E Stock Miata, your time (before penalties) will be multiplied by .806. If you are driving a CSP Miata, your time will be multiplied by .838. In this example, a street tire-shod ES Miata can compete directly with a street tire-shod CSP Miata. Indexes are used in other classes as well, such as SCCA's combined classes and the PAX/Pro classes.

Big Events in August! One of the busiest autocrossing months of 2006 is August. First up will be the SCCA Pro Solo, August 5-6 in Packwood. This is a format that has not been seen in Washington since the good ol' days in Kent. In a ProSolo, you get a drag race start and you race against another car that's on a course that mirrors yours. That's right – two cars autocrossing simultaneously! After class racing is all said and done, some of the top finishers get to go to a single-elimination, handicapped Challenge round (there are some other Challenge rounds as well). There's a lot more to a Pro Solo than this, but this will give you a general idea. There are Pro Solos all over the U.S. The "serious" folks will drive far for these, so expect to see many out-of-state entrants. Drivers accumulate points based on their performances in their best two of three events. If they accumulate enough points, they will carry those points with them and advance to the Pro Solo Finale in September. August 8-10 will be the local stop for the Evolution Performance Driving School. As it says on www.autocross.com, "If you think you are ready to learn what it takes to achieve your next level of driving, then the Evolution Autocross School has a day of fun just waiting for you" and "The instructors are national-caliber drivers, with years of experience, wins, and national championships to their credit in all different types of cars". Last but not least will be the SCCA National Tour in Packwood on August 12-13. This is more like the type of autocross you're used to, but cars are starting faster (maybe every 20 seconds or so), and the drivers are more serious. This is another event that tours all over the U.S. that people will drive far for. Even though the level of competition is high, it is also a lot of fun. Highlights include the Saturday night dinner, raffle, and ACE's "Trike-a-cross". For details, just go to www.wwscc.org or email me at autox-rep1@ps-miata.org.

Thanks to the following Miata dealers 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
Harbor Freight Tools (Everett store only) (425) 513-6213

Pinnacle Mazda of Renton (425) 271-2700
Russ Dunmire Mazda of Tacoma (253) 473-2440
University Mazda of Seattle (206) 634-1191
Whidbey Island Mazda of Oak Harbor (360) 675-2218

Coop's Garage

By Bill Cooper

I know a lot of you have questions about your cars. I have consented to try to address some of those queries in a column. Hopefully, some of you shade tree mechanics will benefit from some of the things we have picked up doing Miata repair over the last 15 years. I thought we could try a Q and A approach. This will necessitate some communication on your behalf so it would be a good idea to have my email address:

wcoopster@comcast.net. My hope is you will enjoy this approach.

To get the ball rolling and demonstrate the format I will start with a fictitious inquirer with a common problem all Miata owners will face sometime or other.

From: Clutch Geargrinder in Everett:

Coop, I think I need a new clutch. I have noticed recently that I am grinding gears when shifting especially going into reverse and first and I have to pump the clutch sometime to get it to go into gear at all. Should I schedule an appointment?

Dear Clutch,

Chances are very good that your clutch issue has little or nothing to do with the clutch itself. The culprit is a poorly designed piece of equipment called the **clutch slave cylinder**.

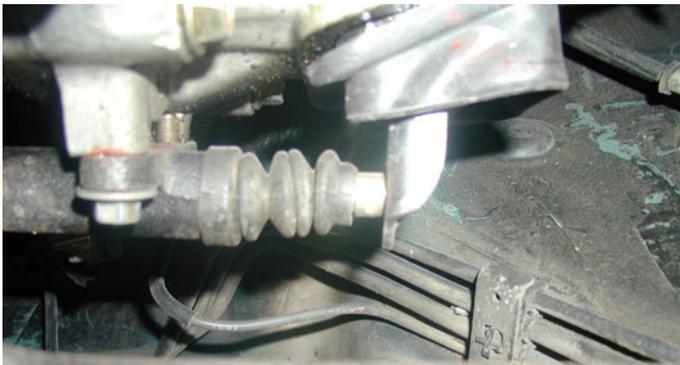


Figure 1

Located on the under side of the engine below the starter on the passenger side and attached to the bell housing (see fig. 1) the clutch slave cylinder is subjected to road wash and grime every time you drive. Every time you push in the clutch, fluid in the **clutch master cylinder** is forced through steel lines into the slave cylinder forcing the piston within it forward which in turn pushes a connecting pin between it and the clutch fork. Located on a fulcrum this lever cradles the **throwout bearing**. It contacts the center of the clutch pressure plate and releases the pressure on the clutch disc thereby disengaging the clutch. If the cylinder is leaking it does not extend the pin far enough to disengage the throughout bearing causing your symptom.

What happens to cause your problem is a result of dirt, corrosion and water acting on the interior of the slave cylinder. Wear on the seal and the walls of the cylinder caused by this combination, a little of which finds its way into the interior each time you activate the clutch, eventually causes wear and leaking. You usually won't have any external indication of fluid leaking around

Coop's continued on next column

Coop's continued from previous column

the part. Most of it will be captured by the boot which covers the connecting pin on the cylinder. This will severely limit the throw of the lever and your clutch will not fully disengage causing your symptoms

Here is what to look for:

The clutch master cylinder is located on the fire wall in the engine compartment to the outside in relationship to the larger brake master cylinder (figure 2). Three things to look for:



Figure 2

1. Low fluid level. ½ inch below the fill line or more.
2. Dark dirty fluid.
3. Peeling back the slave boot resulting in a face full of dirty fluid

Replacement can be accomplished with a little help and a few tools at a cost of around \$50 for the part and fluid. Time is about two beers alone or one each for a pro and friend.

Tools:

- 1- 12 mm combination wrench
- 1- 10 mm line or combination wrench
- 1- submersion container
- 1- Jack and 2-jack stands
- 1- Large flat drain pan or rags
- 1- 8mm combination wrench
- 1- Friend or friendly helper

Instructions:

Jack up the front of the vehicle and put the car on jack stands. **Do not attempt to work under the vehicle without jack stands in place. Jack seals can fail. Death or injury may result from failure to observe safety rules.**

1. Loosen the compression fitting on the steel brake fluid line on the top of the cylinder but do not remove it.
2. Loosen the 2-12mm bolts holding the slave cylinder in place
3. Remove the colored plug from the new cylinder.
4. Compress the piston into the cylinder using the new pin and immerse the new clutch slave cylinder in brake fluid covering the line connection hole.

Coop's continued on page 9

Miata Roll Cage Building, Part IV: The Final Touches

Article and photos by Doug Chase

Now it's time to weld it all up. There are some places where it is difficult or impossible to weld all the way around a tube. The solution?

Weld everything possible while it's in the car, then take it out of the car and weld up the rest.

This brings us to our last installment. It's time for the finishing details. These were pretty simple on this car because it's so stripped down.



Before the left front shock tower brace gets welded in place I had to make a slight modification so the brake booster isn't trapped in place. You can see why this was needed in this picture:



I also needed to move the location of the throttle cable (because of that same bar) and modify the pedal to work with the new location.

Then re-install the master cylinder, bleed the brakes, and re-route the fuel pump wire.

The steering wheel needed to be hung, as did the gauge panel:



The wiring bar (under the right side of the dash) also had to be hung since it was displaced by the bar that goes through the firewall there. You can sort of see it in this picture:



Roll Cage continued next column

Roll Cage continued from previous column

And then it went home:



Here's how the parts tally worked out:

- 21 pieces of tubing
- 13 bends
- 4 tubing ends were flat, square cuts
- 6 tubing ends were flat, angled cuts
- 2 tubing ends were rounded, angled cuts
- 30 tubing ends were notched, and many of these were angled, too
- 10 mounting plates
- 6 were simple plates
- 4 were boxes made out of three pieces each

As you can see, there's more to building a cage than bending a couple tubes.

Any questions? Contact: Doug Chase at www.chaserace.com OR Roll cages, exhausts, custom fab at doug@chaserace.com: Tel No.: (425)269-5636

Ed. Note: For a refresher, check out all the preceding steps in the Sounder archives on our website at www.ps-miata.org.

Coop's continued on from page 8

5. Release the pin slowly allowing fluid to be sucked into the cylinder. Do this a few times until no air bubbles appear
6. Set the cylinder aside and upright so the fluid doesn't drain out and remove the old cylinder the rest of the way. Here is where working quickly is important.
7. Start the compression fitting on to the new cylinder and snug it down.
8. Put the push pin and the rubber boot on the new cylinder and use heavy grease on the tip. Compress the pin enough to get the 2- 12mm bolts to align while seating the round tipped end into the cradle of the fork. Tighten the two bolts in place.
9. Tighten the compression fitting.
10. Remove the old fluid from the reservoir of the clutch master cylinder. An old rag will sop it out. Clean the reservoir out and fill it with new fluid.
11. With an accomplice on the clutch pedal and you opening and closing the bleeder valve bleed the old fluid and air out of the line by you opening the valve, him depressing the clutch, you closing the valve and him releasing the clutch in that order. Repeat this until clear fluid comes out of the valve. You can recover the fluid by putting a piece of plastic tubing on the valve and draining it into a jar or cup.
12. Top off the fluid to the fill line

Good Luck and Happy Miataing!

around the town/club bizz



Oct. 6 - 8, 2006, Leavenworth, WA

Coordinated by John Hewitt, CMNW

Backroads to Bavaria has been happening since 1995 and is thought by some to be one of the Pacific Northwest's favorite Miata/MX5 events. Bringing the Miata/MX5 community together from clubs throughout the region, the event occurs in conjunction with Leavenworth's Oktoberfest. The Enzian Inn, considered to be the best accommodation in the village, will be the base of all the action. Early registration is highly recommended as the event took a hiatus last year, plus this year a large contingent of Australian MX5 Club members will be joining the fun. For more information visit Club Miata Northwest's website at www.clubmiata.com/events/2006/btob9.htm, or contact John Hewitt, event coordinator, at backroads@clubmiata.com or phone him at (360) 659-4248. A registration form may also be downloaded from www.clubmiata.com/events/2006/BackroadsIX/B2BFlyerPublisher.pdf.

Miata Ambassadors Needed: Approximately 20 Australian MX 5 Club members will be visiting the Pacific Northwest in late September and early October to not only partake in Backroads To Bavaria, but also to tour our beautiful region. Hosts are needed to help collect our Australian guests from the airport, provide a guest room for 2 - 5 nights and offer guidance to & from the various start & finish points of each daily activity. An itinerary of the planned events, which you as host are welcomed to join, is listed at www.clubmiata.com/events/2006/BackroadsIX/MX5-Clubs-Members-Adventure.htm. If you think you would be interested in hosting an Australian guest, please contact John Hewitt at john-hewitt@hotmail.com or phone him at (425) 238-5536. For more information on being a host, please go to www.clubmiata.com/events/2006/WAMiataAmbassadors/Articles/WAMiataAmbassadorsInvite.htm

Coming in 2007

Miatas in Moab III
Return of the MX-5s

image from www.utahmiataclub/miatasinmoab/index.htm

Also in 2007

**007: Shaken (-speare)
Not Stirred**



New Faces

We hope to meet you at an event soon!

By Randy Umemoto



Jonathan West	Newcastle, WA	91 Red
Paul Jacobsen	Tacoma, WA	99 Black
Vicki & Judy Burr-Chellin	Seattle, WA	94 Laguna Blue
Pat McCuish & Harold Frombach	Poulsbo, WA	06 Red
John Brandy & Debby Deryck	Redmond, WA	95 Red
John & Marcia Evans	Duvall WA	05 Silver
Steven Cart	Bonney Lake, WA	96 Black
John & Elaine Brookman	Woodinville, WA	96 Black
Alecia Dombey	Auburn, WA	01 BRG
Robert & Gayle Borst	Renton, WA	06 Galaxy Gray
Scott & Teresa Keenholts	Seattle, WA	93 Black
Karen Michaud	Puyallup, WA	02 Silver
Cassie Braget	Renton, WA	91 White

Familiar Faces

Try a new Miata Event this year!

Howard & Virginia Goldman	99 Emerald Mica	1 yr
Michael & Lillian Springer	99 Red	8 yrs
Roland Lind	94 Red	2 yrs
David & Vickie Olson	00 Twilight Blue	1 yr
Terry & Mike Shannon	92 Sunflower Yellow	13 yrs
Alan Dahl	90 Mariner Blue	14 yrs
Robert Schwenke		4 yrs
Don Bojarski & Bill Aycock	00 Mahogany Mica	6 yrs
Mike Crimmins	03 Strato Blue	2 yrs
Dee Dahlke	99 Silver	8 yrs
Gill & Judith Heys	00 Emerald Mica	1 yr
Warren & Joan Crowe	90 Red	6 yrs
Patty & Chris Johnson	92 Red	4 yrs
Gene & Ellie Wilson	05 Silver	11 yrs
Rebecca Magner	95 Red	1 yr
Denise Williamson	93 Red	7yrs

Roadster Ramblings

By Dustin Locke, PSMC Prez

Hello PSMC'ers and Happy August!

Has another month really flown by already? I've been so busy enjoying this amazing Washington Summer and getting in as much Top-Down action as possible that it hardly seems like a whole month has skated by already!



August, though, is promising to be a great month for Miata activities. We have many great events coming up. Some of them include the Twilight Run hosted by Dale & Regena Weber and Yours Truly, A Dog Day Afternoon, and a Run Around the Bases Tour (which is the sequel to last year's popular event). We are also all heading out to the amazing LeMay Car Museum later on in the month. Perhaps one of the most anticipated events for August will be PSMC's 15th Annual "Gathering." I don't know about you all, but I can't wait for this event! We have many volunteers working hard to ensure that this will be a Gathering to remember. If you haven't already checked out this event, or if you would like some more information, please check out the article on page 1 in this Sounder as we have updated it with some new information for you.

Yes, August sure is full of some wonderful events and I am sure that with the weather being the way it has been, we are bound to even get some "Can Your Miata Come Out & Play" Runs added to the mix. One great way for people to get to know you as members is to put on an Event or Run. You don't have to be a race car driver or even a good driver to put on an event. To coin a phrase used by a good friend of mine in the San Diego Miata Club, "a run is just you asking some of your Miata friends to follow you on a drive that you enjoy." That really is the truth. It doesn't matter where you go or what you do, as long as you have your Miata friends in tow it is bound to be a fun time. So, I highly encourage you to put on an event of your own and meet some new people. Let's all get out there and enjoy this beautiful Northwest Summer together!

See you on the twisties!

Mixed doubles continued from page 3

down US 101 (the only street that runs all the way through the village.) It's all part of a huge holiday weekend fair that packs people into town. *Notice: Bring hearing protection in case we get staged in front of the screaming fire engines and/or brass bands. No kidding.*

POST-PARADE debriefing & late lunch info: Both clubs have been cordially invited to a "Fish Fry" after the parade at Rosa's brothers humble abode in Raymond. There is plenty of room for parking, and it is on the way home, just a few blocks from the main highway. All food and drinks will be provided. For those drivers unable to stop, we will motor to a local establishment, then depart individually or in groups for home.

To sign up please use the "RSVP" feature on the calendar page of the website. For info concerning the run, contact Dee Dalke at toadhallwa@yahoo.com or phone (253) 845-2424. For more info concerning parade or Fish Fry details, contact the PSMC Parade focal points: Mindy Bohnas at fun4sun@wavecable.com or phone (360) 895-0931, or Bonnie Lohkamp at blohkamp@comcast.net or phone (425) 347-0361.



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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-join and participate. To keep the club meaningful and solvent, we need your support.

To join go online at ps-miata.org or send your name, address and check for \$30 (annual chapter dues) to:

Puget Sound Miata Club
 3901 SW Hanford
 Seattle WA 98116

Clue #1: Of course PFC R.W. Moore is closely related to a PSMC member, but did you know that PSMC member was one of our former presidents?

August 2006

- 12 Sundown/Twilight Run, hosted by Locke (see page 2)
- 19 Dog Day Afternoon, hosted by Mudie (see page 2)
- 20 Run Around the Bases II, Double Play, hosted by Dennis Thompson & Joanie Hughes (see pg 3)
- 26 LeMay Car Show, hosted by Springer (see page 3)
- 27 PSMC Gathering, hosted by PSMC Board (see pg 1)



September 2006

- 3 South Bend Labor Day Parade (see page 3)
- 9 Mukilteo Parade
- 10 Run Round Rainier V, hosted by Sabel (see page 3)
- 23 Leavenworth Parade
- 24 North Cascade Hwy Run, hosted by McGranaghan (see page 4)

October 2006

- 6-8 Backroads to Bavaria IX, hosted by CMNW
- 7 ALS Walk, hosted by Lazur
- 7 Shelton Oyster Fest Run hosted by Ohlsen/Smith
- 12-15 Return to Tofino, hosted by Aycock, Bojarski and Friends (see page 4)
- 28 Haunted Places Tour, hosted by Smith

November 2006

- 3 First Friday Formal, hosted by Ohlsen
- 5 Planning and Board Meeting in the Southend, hosted by PSMC Board
- 11 Veteran's Day Run, hosted by Smith and Weber
- 19 Turkey Teaser, hosted by McGriff
- 25 Tacoma Holiday Parade

December 2006

- 9 PSMC Holiday Party, hosted by PSMC Board
- 16 Holiday Light Run, hosted by Locke

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Classifieds

2001 MIATA LS FOR SALE

Excellent Condition
Only 23,500 miles
Emerald Mica with Saddle Tan leather interior

All LS model options: 6-speed manual transmission; Torsen limited slip differential; Larger brakes than non-LS models; Driving lights; BOSE AM/FM CD/Cassette radio with 6 speakers; Electric windows, mirrors & door locks w/ remote control; A/C, Cruise Control; 16x7 5-spoke alloy wheels

Brand new Kumho Ecsta ASX 205/45R16 tires; Robbins best Sun-Fast cloth tonneau cover – Saddle Tan in Color; Custom 2-tone striping; Headlight and Taillight bezels; "Invisible bra" front stone shield includes headlamp protection; Sheep Skin seat covers – have kept leather seats looking like new; Always garaged and serviced by Coop with synthetic lubricants; The matching factory hardtop is included but optional

Coop's opinion – "A Cream Puff"

Reduced Price: Now Asking \$16,000 or will sell without the hard top for \$14,500

For more information, call Leeza or Ken Visconti (425) 557-7875 (home) or (206) 963-8255, -8256 (cells)

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Asking \$10,900.00

For more information, call (253) 891-3770

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