

MIATA SOUNDER

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



“E Maximus Beautificus Unum”

Detailin’ / New Members Day

Saturday, May 3, 2008 @ 9:30 AM
Coop’s Miata, Maple Valley

*Hosted by ‘Coop’ & PSMC Staff
Article by Bill Cooper*



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This year’s winter had the worst weather we have seen in the Northwest in decades and it’s time we did something about it! Fortunately for us Miatates, the solution is close at hand. We will begin the trek back to sanity on May 3rd at **Coop’s Miata** in Maple Valley where we will prepare our chariots for battle against the Gods of grime and misery and the jackals of gloom and depression. **No more I say! No more of this!** With every breath we take, beginning on this day, we won’t accept the lingering abuse of these winter scoundrels. We will prepare the shining metal skins of our steeds to high luster. We will remove every vestige of the enemy’s presence from every wheel to that insidious green growth on the inside of her soft top. **You must be there.**

Volunteers are needed to make this event work. If you have helped in the past or would like to volunteer for the first time, please contact us and let us know.

There will be lots of opportunity for bonding....with, your Miata...and your comrades. Training will commence at 9:30 AM. Veterans will be on hand to assist you. A wash station, an engine cleaning station with pressure washer, an interior station equipped with a steam cleaner and vacuum, **SIX wax stations, manned by the staff** with buffers in hand will make your Miata look like the beauty she aspires to be. All you are asked to bring is a half a dozen cotton towels for your own use. This year, as is our custom, we have invited **The Dent Guy** to take out those ugly dents at a special low price.

All supplies will be provided by **Coop’s Miata. Meguiar’s** cleaners, soap, glaze and wax will be on hand, **FREE** for your use.

There will also be food and beverages pro-

vided, by the staff, **FREE.**

Recruiters will be on hand as well. If you have recently joined or are thinking seriously about it there will be volunteers to guide you through the process and introduce you to the rest of the crowd. **You will fit in, guaranteed!**

Thinking about upgrading your chariot? Wait till you see what can and has been done by some of these warriors.

The horn of air has sounded! The battle begins! Your comrades await you! Can we depend on you?

Here are the directions to **Coop’s:**

From the North: I-405 south; take the Enumclaw/Renton Exit; Left at the 2nd light on the Maple Valley Hwy 169; go about 9 miles; Right at the light onto SE 231st St; Up the hill to SE 210th St (Don’t turn right); Go left into Coop’s

From the South: I-5 north; take the North Bend/Auburn, Hwy 18 Exit; Maple Valley/Renton Exit; Left over the overpass on SE 231st St; Up the hill to SE 210th St (Don’t turn right); Go left into Coop’s

Please let us know if you plan on attending by responding to:

Use the Club’s new reservation service: www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org; Click calendar, then May, then RSVP on Detailin Day

See you on the 3rd of May!

(This revised article revived from Coop’s 2004 archives, because.... I liked it!)

Volunteers are needed to help man the various stations, help with new members, assist with the food and buff cars. Please contact us if you plan on helping.



MIATA SOUNDER

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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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ADVERTISING

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pugetsoundmiataclub.org

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

upcoming events

PSMC Parades

For more info, go to
www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org



- May 10 Sequim Parade
- May 17 Viking Fest Parade in Paulsbo
- May 31 Shelton Forest Festival Parade

Parade season is off to a running start in May. The season begins with the Sequim Parade on May 10th. This is the annual Irrigation Festival and it is the oldest festival in the state of Washington. The weather always seems to cooperate in Sequim no matter what it may be doing when you leave your home. Sequim's Parade is then followed by the Poulsbo Viking Fest parade on May 17th. This parade is always well attended and the crowd loves to cheer us on. And finally at the end of the month on May 31st, we have the Shelton Forest Festival parade. This is another parade where the weather is always great and being we carry lots of royalty in this parade, we meet for a free, delicious breakfast put on by the organizers.

Come join us at a parade and see how much fun it is. Although we carry royalty, we also enter as a club. Therefore, you do not have to carry someone if you do not desire to do so. After each parade we usually stop at a restaurant on the way home to celebrate the wonderful day and plan ahead for the next parade. This month, though, instead of eating in Poulsbo, most of us will be heading to the Millar's for their May social.

For any questions regarding parades just contact Bonnie at blohkamp@comcast.net or Dan White at poooh@sillyolddbear.com.

Upcoming PSMC Socials

Keep an eye on the website and future Sounders for details on the following events:



Saturday, May 17, 2008 @ 6:00 PM
Tom and Cindy Millar
 14621 32nd Street SE, Mill Creek,

WA
 Set your calendars for Saturday, May 17th, when the May social will find its way to Cindy & Tom Millar's home in Mill Creek. As before, there is no formal agenda as the party will likely take on a life of its own, complete with stories that are embellished with B.S. Tom is planning on providing an entrée of barbeque chicken. Attendees need to provide the accompaniments as well as a favorite beverage.

Please RSVP via the website at www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org/events/2008_social_may.php. The festivities are scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM.

We look forward to a great time together in this continued PSMC tradition!

Directions: From I-5, take exit 186 (128th St. SW) eastbound towards Mill Creek. Proceed for 2.4 miles until you come to 35th Ave SE; turn right until you come to 148th St. SE (about 1 mile) and make another right; go about 1 mile making another right onto 32nd Drive SE. Millar's home is on the right side at 14621 32nd Drive SE. For more information, or should you get lost, you can call the Millar's at 425.337.0306.

upcoming events

Lee Johnson's Chevrolet/Mazda 75th Anniversary

Show & Shine for Miatas & MX-5s

Sunday, May 4, 2008, 10:45AM to 3:00PM

Lee Johnson Chevrolet

11845 NE 85th Street

Kirkland, WA 98033 (Just off I-405)

Our club has been invited to help celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Lee Johnson's Chevrolet that includes 20 years as a Mazda dealership.

This is a very important celebration because it is quite remarkable for a dealership to maintain that many years in business with the same brand of vehicles, let alone, branch out with the several other dealerships that are part of the Lee Johnson Family.

This is also a very important event for our club because it will give us some great exposure. Lee Johnson's has added a link on their website to our club and will be providing information about our club, as soon as we send it to them. Please check out their list of special 75th Anniversary happenings during the month of May at: <http://www.leejohnson75years.com/>. You can find directions to the dealership on their website.

Since we are having our own Detailing Day on Saturday, May 3rd, what better opportunity will you have to show off your car the next day than to drive to the Show-n-Shine in Kirkland? Lee Johnson's will be providing free food, door prizes and some nice trophies for us to award to the best cars from our club. We will be awarding a 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place trophy for the: "Miata/MX-5 you would MOST like to Drive Home". Trophies will be awarded

Lee Johnson continued next column

Lee Johnson continued from previous column

at 2:45. You must be present to win.

If you are worried about any possibility of rain, don't be. If it rains the car show will move indoors to the HUGE service bay area so we can keep our tops down and the public will be directed inside to view our beautiful cars! Our cars will be safe and you will be able to wander off (walk) to a nearby shopping area if you get bored of looking at all the different Miata's and talking with their owners. There will be lots of advertising for this event by Lee Johnson's along with a schedule of which clubs will be helping them celebrate during the month of May.

Lets all get together and give our support to Lee Johnson's for this outstanding accomplishment in the field of car dealerships!

Please use the RSVP link on the website (www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org) on the right side in the May calendar area. If you have any questions please contact Bonnie Lohkamp by email at blohkamp@comcast.net or Mindy Bohnas at fun4sun@wavecable.com. Also - just a note that Bonnie will be on vacation from April 25th to May 3rd so please contact Mindy during her absence.

Please RSVP as soon as possible with the number of cars you will be bringing so that we can give the dealership some counts for parking space and food needs. If you have more than one Miata it is OK to bring as many as you have drivers for! We would like to have at least one Miata/MX-5 for every year made and as many other special, limited, anniversary editions and regular or rare colors as possible.

Please try to arrive between 10:30 and 10:45 so that we can all be parked & ready to go for the start of the event. (If you cannot make it until later in the day, please let Bonnie or Mindy know an approximate arrival time and we will make sure room is left for you.)

Hope to see you there!

20th Annual Historic Racing at Pacific Raceways

July 4-6, 2008

PSMC Coordinator: Mike Springer

It is not too late to order tickets to the PSMC "Car Corral" at the 20th Annual Pacific Northwest Historics this year. The deadline for ordering tickets is May 15th, so come on out and support the SOVREN Guild of Children's Hospital. Over the last 13 years, almost \$3.5 million dollars has been raised at the races to benefit uncompensated care at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle.

Pacific Northwest Historics features many of the world's rarest and most beautiful pre-1970 race cars. This year, more than 250 vintage racecars are expected to enter. Favorites include Ferraris, Lotuses, Cobras, Corvettes, Porsches, Austin Healeys and some less recognizable names like Elva, Ginetta, and McLaren. Most are in mint condition through extensive restoration and many attain speeds in excess of 150 miles per hour. Some of the cars are valued at over \$1 million and many have impressive racing histories. Competitors come from all over the West Coast and Canada. And if that isn't enough to draw you out, remember this year's featured Marque will be Porsche celebrating its 60th Anniversary and the celebrity guest will be Al Unser Sr.,

Gates open at 8:30 am. The cost is \$25 per car and driver each day; passengers are also \$25 per day. Passes for all three days are \$40 driver and car or passenger.



upcoming events

Sunset Auto Tour IV

Saturday, June 7, 2008

Randy's Diner @ 9:15 AM

E. Marginal Way, Seattle

Hosted by Allan & Cheryl Ohlsen



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

Join us again, and especially if you are new members, as we trace the historical route of the Sunset Highway (Primary State Highway 2) from the south end of Seattle, through Renton, Issaquah, Snoqualmie, and North Bend all the way to Snoqualmie Pass. We'll take the back roads with a just a tiny bit of freeway, going from urban to suburban, to rural, and all the way to the Cascade mountain wilderness. There will be a couple of extra, fun twisty roads thrown in, culminating with a switchback road that will put a smile on everyone's face. We'll also stop for a short break at Snoqualmie Falls, and after we reach the summit and finish, we'll have lunch at the Family Pancake House.

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

Driving directions: From north or southbound I-5, take exit 158, E. Marginal Way. Go west to E. Marginal Way, go north (right) about three blocks and Randy's will be on the right.

Please RSVP on the website or to Allan Ohlsen 206-444-6845 or mytrail@att.net

Mt. St. Helens Run

Saturday, June 15, 2008 @ 8 AM

County Cousin Restaurant

Centralia, located off I-5, exit 82

Hosted by A.J. & Vicki McGranaghan



This day trip is a Miata owner's dream in that it allows high speed, winding avenues of approach with many great views. The trip will begin in Centralia, starting off with a great breakfast at the Country Cousin Restaurant located at exit 82 (Harrison Ave & Outlet Malls) off of I-5. Meeting time for breakfast will commence at 8:00 AM on Sunday, June 15, 2008. A driver's meeting will start at or about 9:15 AM for those not wishing to join us for breakfast.

Before leaving Centralia, it is recommended that you purchase a lunch and a drink. The trip will then depart Centralia at or about 9:30 AM, proceeding South on I-5 to the Castle Rock exit (exit 49) and then proceed East on Hwy 504 through Silver Lake, Toutle and Kid Valley on our way to the volcano observatory. The distance from Castle Rock to the observatory is approximately 45 miles, with many opportunities to stop along the way at some great vistas and interactive centers prior to arriving at the Johnston Observatory. At the conclusion of our time spent at the Observatory (about 1 ½ to 2 hrs), we will retrace our way back down westward on Hwy 504 and conclude our outing somewhere in Castle Rock. A total time elapsed from our breakfast meeting to the conclusion at Castle Rock will be about 5 to 6 hours. This will prove to be a great day out with beautiful scenery and great roads. We hope you can join us!

4th Annual Run to South Bend

Sunday, August 31, 2008

Your PSMC Hosts: Bob & Sally Thomas

Puget Sound Miata Club and Corvettes de Olympia will again join forces for a road run to the "Come and Play on Labor Day" parade and street fair at South Bend, WA. This year's is the Miatas's turn to lead the tour.

New Start location: We will depart from the area of Shelton, WA about 9:15AM for the road run over some lightly-traveled local twisty pavement. We plan the traditional "pit stops" at Montesano and/or Raymond. Your hosts are working on a pre-launch breakfast venue as well; details to be announced over the summer.

We'll arrive at South Bend about noon and clean the bugs off the cars. Bring your usual parade décor and mobile car-cleaning kits. Parade should start at 1:00PM. We may carry or escort dignitaries, as assigned by the committee. There are traditionally free hot dogs and sodas at the finish line for the participants, and then we cool down at local establishments before heading home (or to other weekend activities).

This event is ALL about driving down great sports car roads on a brisk morning of late summer or early fall. Our public service in supporting the South Bend parade is just an added attraction. Please register on the club website so the hosts have an accurate count of participants.

upcoming events/event aftermath

Olympic Peninsula Tour

October 4-5, 2008

Meeting date & time: Oct. 4th @ 9:00 AM

Meeting place: Hawk's Prairie Restaurant
8306 Quinalt Dr. NE, Lacey

Hosted by Millar & McGranaghan

Imagine the splendor of a late autumn tour of the Olympic Peninsula! On Saturday, October 4, 2008, Tom Millar and A.J. McGranaghan will be your hosts on this beautiful tour which will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Hawks Prairie Restaurant, located at 8306 Quinalt Dr NE, Lacey, WA, (360) 459-0900 .

We will travel along the magnificent waterways of the Hood Canal on our way towards Port Angeles where we will have lunch. Along the way we will make a stop at Hoodsport and visit the winery there. This scenic drive along Highway 101 will provide us several vantage points and stops to commune with nature and take in some of the region's history.

After traveling through the forests and along the coast we will arrive at Pacific Beach where we will spend the evening at the Navy's recreational and lodging site. A block of lodging will be reserved for our group. The pricing varies from a hotel-like room for \$50, a presidential suite for \$80 or a four bedroom house for \$100+. Since Tom Millar is a retired Lieutenant Commander in the Coast Guard, he will serve as the sponsor. You will be responsible for making your own reservations as well as individually taking care of your own finances for the room, meals, etc. The toll free number for the Navy facility is: (888) 463-6697. The Navy also has a web site at: <http://www.navylifepnw.com/site/68/Pacific-Beach.aspx>.

Dinner on Saturday will either be at the Navy's own restaurant or at the nearby casino in Ocean Shores.

Look for more details as the date nears. The tour is still under construction and Tom & AJ will be doing the pre-run in the near future. In the meantime, mark your calendars for what promises to be a grand time of driving and fellowship with your extended PSMC family.



image from www.nps.gov/olymp

Dogging the Green Rabbit, Revisted

By Allan Ohlsen

Which way did he go? Which way did he go? That was the question as twenty or so Miatas covered the eastside foothills hot on the trail of the Green Rabbit in celebrating St. Paddy's Day. The weather turned out to be pretty good in the Maple Valley area that day, so good that many had their tops down. The competition was keen and quick decisions had to be made at certain intersections as to stay on the trail of that rascally wabbit.



The day started with coffee, snacks and conversation at Coop's place. Soon the cars were lined and released to follow the trail at two-minute intervals. If you have never been on a "hound and hare" run, the idea is to follow the trail via signs and instruction. The person with the closest mileage (with fewest mistakes) to the actual "rabbit" run is the winner. Signs were put up at intersections indicating a direction decision had to be made. A confirmation "you are on the right trail" sign indicated you were on the right trail. No confirmation sign indicated you lost the trail and had better turn around and try another direction. Acting like a leprechaun, the trickster rabbit proved to be a challenge to follow. Event leaders (and some participants) went out to confuse, I mean help, at various intersections. Event leaders had as much fun as participants.

The event concluded at a Mexican restaurant in Maple Valley for a late lunch. Everyone had a great time and was able to follow the trail in general. Prizes/awards were given for best odometer accuracy (staying on the trail) 1,2 and 3. Also, 1,2,3 in corrected odometer (guessing how far you were off because of wrong turns) and an award for "I got lost, but still had a good time". Tom Rohm followed the rabbit trail the best and won 1st place, being just slightly off on his odometer. The best corrected odometer, and hit the mark exactly, 40 miles, were Bonnie and Larry Lohkamp. If anyone is wondering, the "I got lost" award did NOT go to Charlotte Fellers. If this event (or something like it) comes up again, give it a try. It's great fun.



Cold, Experiments & Sun

By Denise Williamson



In the last Sounder, I neglected to mention that the Bremerton Sports Car Club had their first event of the year. On February 16, four PSMC members partook in some chilly early-season driving. **Tom Slipp** won the Sports C class with a time of 55.109, and **TJ McGeary** took second place with a 56.568. In the Large Sedan class, Dieter Beldi took fourth place in his Mazdaspeed3 with a 55.228. Also making the trip to Bremerton was **John Kabigting**, who ran in the Time Only class.

“Alan’s Crazy Experiment” (a WWSCC event) was held on March 9 in Bremerton. Well, he must not have been too crazy, because he (**Alan Dahl**) won the PRO1 class with a Solstice GXP-indexed time of 39.340. Also winning their classes were **Bob Bundy** (Open Street, 49.653) and **TJ McGeary** (Improved B, 54.019). **Brett Wilson**, **Enrique Garcia**, and **Dieter Beldi** were also at the event, having fun in the Time Only class. Kudos for the event go to **Alan Dahl** for having the fastest indexed time of the day, and the fourth best unindexed time of the day. Oh yeah, and he designed the course, too.

Last but not least for the month was the SCCA El Toro ProSolo, held March 29-30. The lone PSMC entrant this year was **Alan Dahl**. Alan did very well, and placed 2nd in A Stock, driving his Solstice GXP.

Coming in the next issue: results from the NW Region SCCA season opener, BSCC #2, and maybe even SCCA #2 and the SCCA Regional ProSolo #1.

May Autocross

For details see wwscc.org

- 3 SSSCC SSSCC #1 @ Yakima Sundome
- 4 SSSCC SSSCC #1 @ Yakima Sundome
- 6 BSCC Monthly Meeting @ Tony’s Pizza, Bremerton
- 13 NWR/SCCA Solo Committee Meeting @ Goldie’s Airport Way (SCCA)
- 17 Oregon Region SCCA Practice Day @ Packwood
- 18 Oregon Region SCCA Event #1 (stock AM) @ Packwood
- 19 WWSCC Council Meeting @ Goldie’s Airport Way (WWSCC)
- 25 BSCC Practice @ Bremerton Raceway
- 25 NWR/SCCA Event #3 @ Bremerton Raceway
- 26 BSCC Event #3 @ Bremerton Raceway

Setup: The Drama Continues. . . .

Episodes 4-7

By Denise Williamson

Episode 4 showed everyone’s friend (the producer) questioning Brian of the Royal Purple car about his concerns regarding Horse Thief Mile (HTM). Brian was not too keen about the track, so he did not race the previous day. On this day, he was allowed to drive some test laps. After watching the test laps, the sponsor said that Brian was not competitive. Bye, bye, Brian....

Next up was a 25 lap race on HTM for one group of drivers. The producers made a big deal about “You drop a wheel, you go to the back, you drop again, you go home”. Stan (Geico) won, and Danan blocked everyone so they couldn’t get around him.

On to race #2, 25 laps on HTM. Kevin (Bridgestone) hit the Stanley car, because they missed a shift (or so he said). With five laps to go, the producer decides to throw a yellow flag for “competition”, and tells them not to lay up and to protect the car. On the last lap, Mike (Geico) goes off track at about the same time that Kevin (Bridgestone) drops a wheel. In the meantime, RJ wins. Then, everyone gathers back at the garage to discuss things. The host (Tommy) said that Kevin had been dogged by complaints. It was decided that since Kevin’s penalty and Mike’s

Setup continued next column

Setup continued from previous column

(Geico) off-track excursion happened simultaneously, that they would have a runoff to see who would go home.

Episode 5 started with the match race between Kevin and Mike for five laps on HTM. Mike got a good start. Kevin hit a hay bale, so they restarted. Ultimately, Mike won and Kevin went home.

The first race of the day was for 25 laps on HTM. Mike (Geico) won. Chad (Royal Purple) had some mechanical problems and was sent home.

The second group of drivers then ran their 25 lap race on HTM. Junior (Sketchers) got hit by the Bill Wall car, but all of them were being held up by the Koni car. The Koni car got hit, resulting in a red flag and a restart. Mike (Geico) won. Chris (Koni) quit the show, because he felt he was holding up his more-talented co-driver by getting less seat time than single driver cars.

Episode 6 started with (guess what?) a 25 lap race on HTM. Ernesto (Wow Factor) goes off course and through a fence. He

Setup continued on page 7

autocross / around the town

Setup continued from page 6

was okay, but the car was not. This really ticked off the hypocritical producer, who declared, "I'm not sure if you guys get it. You're thinking 'TV show'. You're supposed to be race car drivers." Huh, I wonder why they were thinking they're on a TV show?

In the next race, Junior (Sketchers) hit two people and was penalized for it. He hit Danan hard enough that it knocked him out of the race. Danan proceeded to threaten Junior with violence and some four letter words from his limited vocabulary. Tommy did not like Junior making excuses for the hits and thinks he will do it again. Geico won the race, and Pedro went home. In an interview segment, spiffy editing and leading questions attempted to make bully, anger-challenged Danan seem like a good ol' guy who just loves to drive.

The next drama to unfold was suspicion of brake pad alteration of the Wow Factor car by an intellectually-challenged crew chief. He admitted he chipped them with a screwdriver. This is cheating. They were sent home. Then, Geico, Stanley, and the now-empty Wow Factor traded cars. Is the so far fastest car (Geico) due to the car or the driver's skill? And, to add more power to all of the cars, new GM stage kits were installed.

Episode 7 started out with Laura (was Stanley, now Geico) dropping out of the show due to a pinched nerve in her neck. Then came the first race, which was (finally) not at HTM, but at the "Streets of Willow" course. The producer's latest twist was that if Junior lost a position on the first lap, then he would get sent home. Also, if Mike (was Geico, now Stanley) did not pass Junior after two laps, that he would get sent home. Mike

Setup continued next column

Setup continued from previous column

passed Junior on lap two, so neither went home. There was plenty of messy driving by everyone, with bumps, spins, off-track excursions, dropped wheels, etc. This episode spent a lot of time painting Danan as an enthusiastic driver and made sure to include his sob story (his mother and his wife died). James and Christiano (both in the Bill Wall car) had mechanical issues, so they had a runoff. Christiano did not think this was fair. Mysteriously, on his first lap, he went off course and hit a hay bale, rendering the intercooler and the car useless. This really ticked off the producer, who had an argument with Christiano. Although Christiano had a bad attitude, he was right on a number of points, in particular the producer's hypocritical and arbitrary rules.... Bye, bye, Christiano. The producer then acquires a new car for James.

This episode ended with the beginning of the final race. The winner received \$100,000.00 and a chance to try out for a Pontiac race team. There was a lot of bumping, and literal wheel-to-wheel racing. The last thing we saw was a car doing some impressive cart-wheeling. To be continued....

**May 23-25, 2008
Kelowna, B.C.**



*Hosted by Okanagan
Valley Miata Club*

REGISTRATION FOR THIS EVENT IS NOW
CLOSED!

After an overwhelming response, the 2008 Sun Run is sold out!

To those that were unable to register this year, the Okanagan Valley Miata Club hope to see you at the 2009 Topless Sun Run.



Explore Oregon

July 25-27, 2008

*Hosted by the Willamette
Valley Miata Club*

Join us for another great weekend of fun, as we return to the Beautiful Oregon Coast and Florence, Oregon. The fun will start with registration and a Welcome Reception at the Florence Events Center Friday Evening. Saturday will be full of fun with several awesome drives being planned, along with some free time to do your own exploring. The Dinner Banquet will be held at the Florence Events Center Saturday evening and we will have some great door prizes and raffle items. And on Sunday there is a drive planned to Shore Acres Park and Sunset Bay.

Rooms are reserved at the Driftwood Shores Resort and Conference Center (1-800-422-5091) and Edwin K Bed and Breakfast (1-800-833-9465)

Cost: \$45 per person and \$85 per couple. Due to space availability, attendance will be limited to 100 people so make your reservations soon!

Coming in October



**October 2-5, 2008
Leavenworth, WA**

*Hosted by
Club Miata NW*

This event has reached full capacity of 250 people. "Thank you" to all who are pre-registered. For those of you who would still like to attend, there will be a waiting list. Complete a registration form and send it in with full payment. Your registration will be placed on the waiting list. You will be contacted if/when a space opens. Refunds will be made to non-participating waiting list registrants. Registration forms are found at Club Miata Northwest's website at www.clubmiata.com.

Road Hunting Around Astoria

By Dee Dahlke ('99 Silver "Road Dancer") and Duncan Johnson

In mid-April we took a brief getaway in Astoria, Oregon. Historic old city with great river views, fine dining, luxurious B&Bs (luxurious means the plumbing works) and excellent walking tours of the historic areas. Recommendations on request. Being Sports Car People we made sure we took a good selection of extra-twisty winding Sports Car Roads on the trip. Here are some suggestions for your own future trips in and around that area.

We left Interstate 5 and headed west across highway 6 from Chehalis to Raymond, a favorite road from many past car club runs. That area was Ground Zero for the huge floods last winter. What a mess! Still. Farm fields scoured to rocks, debris and driftwood everywhere, twisted railroad tracks hanging in mid-air where their embankments washed away, mud and junk in every low area, undermined houses, all the evidence of an awesome major disaster. The formerly-beautiful Rainbow Falls State Park is closed, having been well carved-up by the river in front, and the bridge leading in has totally vanished. The bridge for the back road into the park lies in a pile of mangled junk. No traditional rod runs there this summer! West of the summit of the Willapa Hills the wind damage from multiple storms becomes evident (and it continues in Oregon.) Barns and utility buildings have fallen, house trailers are flattened, blue tarps are everywhere, and the blow-downs of timber are tremendous. There must have been micro-tornadoes in the valleys and hollows, as great stands of trees large and small are flattened, either uprooted or snapped off, all lying the same direction. They look like logging clear-cuts, except the trees are smashed, not sawn off. Anyhow, it was a significant Force Of Nature, the local folks are going to have a long recovery, and if you plan to explore any secondary roads, be prepared for them to be closed.

After an espresso jolt in Raymond we found the roads to be in good shape for a quick shot down US 101 to routes 4 and 401 to Naselle, Dismal Nitch, and Megler, then over the great bridge to Astoria.

Now to some unexplored territory. Get out your Oregon map and follow along. Leave Astoria going south on 101 toward Warrenton. At the big roundabout by the Youngs Bay bridge, pick up 101-Business southbound, which is also route 202 for a while until that route veers off. A few miles further, where 101-Business turns west to rejoin the coast highway, you continue south (more or less straight ahead) onto Lewis and Clark Road. There is also a garden center at this corner. Lewis and Clark Road parallels the coast highway south to the too-touristy Seaside (about 25 miles) only inland a bit. It starts out wandering through farmland but then goes up into the hills in a fine series of switchbacks and S-curves. Lovely place to exercise the suspension and the various gears in the transmission. Also the brakes, as the road comes *down* out of the hills as well. It pops out in Seaside near the outlet malls, if you're into that kind of stuff. We continued south through Cannon Beach and had lunch at the Warren House pub in Tolovana. It's been there forever, we visited it on some previous motoring run, and it merits

Astoria continued from previous column

inclusion on the "Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives" program on TV. Continue south on 101 to Garibaldi, seeing plenty of ocean views (we watched two bald eagles fighting over a single fish in the shallows.) Garibaldi is where the Tillamook Bay Coast Guard Station is located; famous for heavy weather rescues. There is a small but moving memorial to the many seamen lost over the years. At the head of the bay we turned inland (northeast) up one of our all-time favorite car-testing routes called Miami River Road, which intersects route 53 and then snakes over the hills (still about a foot of snow up there on our visit.) On this trip we caught up to The World's Fastest Plumber's Van, which was doing a commendably good job of cornering on its door handles at outrageous speeds. He slowed a bit (just a bit) and eased over to let us pass after we had marveled at his cornering skill for a while. Eventually we came to Nehalem Junction on the Sunset Highway (US 26.) All these town names are Indian words which translate to "land of foul smelling waters." From there it was straight back to Seaside and the coast road, with a stop at the former World's Largest Sitka Spruce Tree. We say former, because the winter storms reduced it from a 300-foot giant to a 75-foot stub and a pile of slash. A real shame, but that's Nature.

Another dandy route out of Astoria is southeast through the hills on route 202. Start this one with a full tank of gas, because you're going to be a long way out in the country, and the towns shown on the map are just place names, no facilities there at all. You can find 202 at the aforementioned Youngs Bay roundabout, or pick it up from the city streets if you have a local map. Route 202 is a lovely winding road, in spring there is skunk cabbage in the swamps, snow in the mountains, and currently some rough pavement from winter damage. Heck, up near the summit it doesn't amount to much more than a paved logging road, which means lots of hills and assorted decreasing-radius corners, although not a boulevard-like road surface. We stopped to watch a huge herd of elk in a mountain meadow wildlife preserve — they are as benign as cattle — that was near Jewell. The preserve had nice rest rooms to boot. If your steering and shifting arms are tired you can shoot south from Jewell and pick up the US 26 main drag near Elsie. Otherwise continue twisting eastward on 202 through more forest/mountain highway until you get to Mist. There it is decision time on state route 47. To keep exploring Oregon, go south on 47. That road (and it's a fine one) heads down to Forest Grove (as in their famous *concours d' elegance*.) and Carlton (a funky town with more atmosphere than air.) and into the wine country, all another favorite route. To get back to Washington we instead opted for highway 47 northbound to Clatskanie; up in the hilly S-curves it had winter sand and de-icer and log trucks galore. You'd best have a fast car and be a brave driver to keep up with those monsters. We crossed the river at Longview and had a straight shot home. With a little creative reading of a *detailed* map(s) you can even completely avoid I-5 by taking parallel secondary roads to the Puget Sound area.

Astoria continued next column



AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM®

Brand New Website for LeMay - America's Car Museum

(Tacoma, WA) – LeMay – AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM® is pleased to announce the launch of their brand-new website developed by SiteCrafting Inc., a Tacoma-based web application and development company. The new website is set to launch today and will feature a variety of custom web applications including a virtual Museum, advanced e-commerce tools and ticketing, scheduling and event registration, a volunteer management system, registration for a Museum email newsletter, and a special press and media section with downloadable press kits and marketing collateral among many other features. SiteCrafting was selected by the Museum due to their website-functionality expertise, understanding of how to apply museum marketing and customer service strategies to the web, overall design experience and because of their enthusiasm to become one of the Museum's "sponsor partners".

"We're building the world's foremost automotive museum right here in downtown Tacoma," said David Madeira, President & CEO, "and now our website, with its membership interactivity features, will not only match that, but will allow us to use the internet to help us expand America's Car Club across the nation."

Brian Forth, President of SiteCrafting, Inc. said, "SiteCrafting is thrilled to partner with LeMay - AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM in bringing their world-class automobile collection online. As a Tacoma-based company, we value the opportunity to be associated with a project that makes such a positive impact in our community."

The goal for the Museum's new website is designed to be more user friendly for the public and press, and to be a gathering place for Museum members on the web. Please visit us at www.lemaymuseum.org to experience the new website.

About LeMay – AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM®

LeMay – AMERICA'S CAR MUSEUM in Tacoma, WA, is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the LeMay Collection of automobiles and memorabilia, along with vehicles and artifacts it may acquire. The LeMay Collection was recognized in the Guinness Book of World records as the largest privately held car collection in the world. At its peak, the collection was in excess of 3,000 automobiles, motorcycles, trucks and other vehicles, plus more than 30,000 pieces of related 20th century Americana. Plans are under way to build a museum in Tacoma to feature a permanent collection of 1,200 cars and memorabilia. More information about the museum is available online at "www.lemaymuseum.org".

Ed. Note: Due to the amount of submissions in the past months, there hasn't been room for our regular LeMay Column. We apologize to any members who have missed this column and missed keeping up with all the new changes happening with the LeMay Car Museum. For more information and exciting news, please visit the LeMay website at www.lemaymuseum.org.



For more information, go to www.forevermx5.com.
Image from www.forevermx5.com.

Just a note to remind you that Randy Umemoto is no longer our Database Coordinator/Souder Distributor. Should you have any questions or comments about your Souder and/or membership, please direct them to Sean McGriff at membership@pugetsoundmiataclub.org . . . Thank you!

From the Editor's Desk



Time to say "So Long!" but not Good-bye

By Cindy Smith

Never in a million years when Tom and I joined PSMC in September of 2000 did I think I would get so involved with the club. In fact, I remember saying, "Okay, we can join; but promise me we will just join in on

an occasional drive." Well, as you all know, that philosophy didn't last long. Before the year was out, Tom was on the board, then we were both on the board, then I became president, CEO (twice!) and Sounder editor. Also during the last seven years, Tom has taken on recruiting buffers (and outfitting them) on Detailing Day, we've helped put on three Gatherings, three Holiday parties and have hosted around thirty events in six years. Like the Ever-Ready Bunny, I've just been going and going and going. However, unlike the Ever-Ready Bunny, this Bunny has run out of steam.

Even so, it's been rather hard stepping down and letting go of something that has been such a large part of my life, but I am finding it's necessary. My horse has gone untrained for five years, my home is starting to demand a lot of TLC, I want to get back to some much neglected hobbies and I need to really concentrate on those new dance steps I am learning. However, contrary to an ugly rumor that I heard through the grapevine, one thing I am NOT planning on doing is alienating my self from PSMC. I have had way too much fun and have formed way too many friendships to just up and leave. For this year, though, I do plan to be a little more low-key and take, what I consider, a well earned break.

Of course, now that the time has come, it is hard to believe that this is my last Sounder. After three years and three months (that is thirty-nine issues folks), it is time for some "new blood," and perhaps a new look, to take over PSMC's *Miata Sounder*. I think we found the right person for the job too. Charlotte Fellers not only knows – and loves – PageMaker Software, she has a degree in Journalism and has worked as a reporter. She'll be taking over next month with June's issue, so should you see her in the meantime, be sure to give her a big THANK YOU for stepping up and taking on this project on behalf of the club. Like I've said so many, many times, if it were not for volunteers like Charlotte, we wouldn't have much of a club.

Finally, thanks to all of you for your support, for forgiving me for my indiscretions and mistakes and being so kind to throw those occasional "atta-girls" my way over the years. Those small tokens of appreciation went a long way and made all the hard work and late nights worth it. I know I would not have lasted as long as I did without such a great team behind me.

Thanks again, and hope to see you on a back road soon!

Membership Directory Update



By Sean McGriff, PSMC Membership Coordinator

It is that time of year again to get the last minute membership updates so we can publish the membership directory. The update process is pretty simple. If you have moved, changed your phone number, email address, car, etc., just contact me at membership@pugetsoundmiataclub.org (or call 425.430.0255) with the updated information and the update will be done. Also, if you have decided to not have your information in the directory or just perhaps just part of it, I can do that too.

Please give me your updates by June 1st to give plenty of time to make changes and edit. Thank you, and happy driving!

New Faces

We hope to meet you at an event soon!

By Sean McGriff



No new faces this month.

Familiar Faces

Try a new Miata Event this year!

Dannie & Mark Brandt	95 Red	9 yrs
Jeffrey & Eileen Buckingham	97 Montego Blue	7 yrs
David & Brita Enfield	91 Red	8 yrs
Tommy & Lindanne Gores	92 Red	10 yrs
Terry & Fae Jacobs	93 White	1 yr
Kathy Jerman	94 Montego	6 yrs
Alan & Kris McMahan	02 Titanium	7 yrs
Gary & April Meier	93 Black LE	11 yrs
Keith & Audrey Morrison	92 Red	4 yrs
James Odle		1 yr
Allan & Cheryl Ohlsen	99 Silver	8 yrs
Julianne Wasilausky	96 Starlight Mica	3 yrs
Cheryl Teague & Steve Whitney	03 Midnight Blue	1 yr

President's Message

By Bonnie Lohkamp
PSMC President

Another month has gone by and it seems that we still have not gotten completely rid of old man winter. It is hard to believe that just two weeks ago we had snow and today, while I was out driving around, we had hail and what appeared to be wet snow in a couple of downpours that came through the Everett area, aka the wonderful convergence zone. As far as I am concerned, spring/summer can not come soon enough. One day of sun this weekend and then hail and snow 2 days later. Oh well it is the Northwest and we get the best of everything when it comes to weather.



Okay enough whining and on to the good news. The calendar for May is a busy one. We start off with Detailing/New Members Day on May 3rd. This is one of the three biggest events of the year for our club! Where else can you come and get your car buffed and ready for spring for free. Of course, there are also vacuum stations, steam cleaning stations, The Dent Guy, plus a few other vendors as well. Lunch will again be provided by the club at no charge.

Then as soon as our cars are looking their best, we have the chance to show them off! On May 4th, the day right after Detailing Day, we have been invited by Lee Johnson Chevrolet/Mazda to celebrate their 75 years in business (20 of that as a Mazda dealership). This is going to be a show and shine and what better way to show off your freshly cleaned car! There will be prizes, free food and trophies. Only a select number of car clubs have been invited to participate in this event and we are one of them. This will be great exposure for the club. For more information, time and location of this grand anniversary, check out the website and make sure you RSVP as soon as you can.

Parade season also starts in May. We have three parades slotted for this month (see the article on page 2). The start of the parade season is always a sure sign that good weather is on the way.

And don't forget the May social hosted by the Millars on the 17th (see page 2)

Well, this is it for this month. Now I have to get back to packing for our trip to Arkansas to visit with PSMC members John and Linda Mann. While we are there, we plan on checking out the area to see if it is where we want to eventually retire. The Arkansas weather forecast looks good: high 70's to low 80's. Looks as if we will have some nice sun and top down driving. I will let you know how our trip goes in next month's Sounder.

"Live for sunny days and warm nights"

Remember

You can now get your Sounder via email instead of snail mail. It's easy, just send an email to membership@pugetsoundmiataclub.org



OFFICERS/DIRECTORS WEB COMMITTEE

CHIEF OFFICERS

Operating _____	Bonnie Lohkamp
Executive _____	Mindy Bohnas
Communications _____	Dannie Brandt
Financial _____	Sean McGriff

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Bill Bell	Bill Cooper	Allan Ohlsen
Mindy Bohnas	Charlotte Fellers	Randy Umemoto
Mark Brandt	Jim Hightchew	Rosa Umemoto
Christy Castro	Gayle Lazur	

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Insurance Coordinator	Dannie Brandt
Data Coordinator	Sean McGriff
Parade Coordinator	Bonnie Lohkamp
Sounder Editor	Cindy Smith
Webmaster	Nathan Allan
Autocross Rep	Denise Williamson

WEB COMMITTEE

Webmaster/EIO	Nathan Allan
Assistant Webmaster	Mindy Bohnas
Classified Ads/Specialty Programmer	John Young
Special Graphics	Mike Springer
Forum Administrator	David Whooley

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 pugetsoundmiataclub.org or send your name, address and check for \$30 (annual chapter dues) to:

Puget Sound Miata Club
222 Wells Ave N
Renton, WA 98055

2008 Calendar

For details about these events or to **RSVP**, check out the Calendar at pugetsoundmiataclub.org

May 2008

- 3 Detailin' Day, hosted by Cooper (see pg 1)
- 4 Lee Johnson Chevrolet/ Mazda 75th Anniversary (see pg 3)
- 10 Sequim Parade
- 17 Poulsbo Parade
- 17 PSMC Social, hosted by Millars (see pg 2)
- 23-25 Okanagan Topless Sun Run, Kelowna, Canada hosted by OVMC (see pg 7)
- 31 Shelton Parade



October 2008

- 2-5 Backroads to Bavaria, hosted by Club Miata Northwest (see pg 7)
- 3 First Friday Formal, hosted by Lazur
- 4-5 Olypmic Peninsula Tour, hosted by Millar and McGranaghan (see pg 5)
- 11 Corn Maze Run, hosted by Fellers
- 31 Bremerton Safe Trick or Treat, hosted by Bohnas

November 2008

- 8 Southend Planning Meeting, hosted by PSMC
- 23 Turkey Teaser, hosted by McGriff

June 2008

- 7 Sunset Auto Tour, hosted by Ohlsen (see pg 4)
- 14 PSMC Elections, hosted by PSMC Board
- 15 Mt. St. Helen Run, hosted by McGranaghan (see pg 4)
- 21 Marysville Strawberry Festival Parade (Tentative)
- 28 Port Orchard Parade

December 2008

- 6 PSMC Holiday Party, hosted by PSMC

July 2008

- 4 Kingston Fourth of July Parade
- 4-6 Northwest Historics, coordinated by Springer (see pg3)
- 12 Mercer Island Parade
- 13 Hurricane Ridge, hosted by Bell
- 19 Lakefair Parade and BBQ, hosted by Allen
- 20 Chinatown Parade
- 26 Silverdale Parade
- 26 Torchligh Parade

August 2008

- 9 Run to Mt. Baker, hosted by Bell and Sea-to-Sky Miata Club (Vancouver, BC)
- 16 Whidbey Island Run, hosted by Kus, Shriver & Lohkmap
- 23 PSMC Gathering @ Coop's, hosted by PSMC
- 30 LeMay Open House
- 31 South Bend Labor Day Parade and Run (see pg 64)

September 2008

- 6 Mukilteo Parade
- 13 Progressive Dinner, hosted by Fellers, McSherry & Ohlsen
- 27 Leavenworth Autumn Leaf Parade
- 28 North Cascades Hwy Tour, hosted by Lohkamp

Classifieds

Parts

Escort / Miata 1.8 block: Free!
Good 1.8 Miata Crank: \$50 or . . . obo
Roadstersport Midpipe (exhaust) from Goodwin Racing; Fits '99-05 Miata: \$175
Contact Dale Weber at (425) 422-8430 or email him at dale.regena@verizon.net

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
Mazda of Everett (425) 353-3403
Russ Dunmire Mazda of Tacoma (253) 473-2440
University Mazda of Seattle (206) 634-1191
Whidbey Island Mazda of Oak Harbor (360) 675-2218