

Miata Sounder



*Newsletter of the Puget Sound Miata Club
The First Miata Club in the USA!*

CORN MAZE RUN III

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

Upcoming

"Listen! The wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves,
We have had our summer evenings, now for October's eves."

December 31

Dee's Big Birthday
Bash



ZOOM-ZOOM MIATA HAWAIIAN SHIRTS!!!

Thompson Automotive
Premiered these
shirts at Miatas In
Moab IV and they flew
off their table. These
shirts look great and
are cut a little larger
than normal, so take
that into account
when you order.
Here's a link to their
web site:

<http://www.thompson-automotive.com/Shirts.html>

SUMMER WILL RETURN.
BE READY!

We've been accused of overusing that verse (it's from the poem "Autumn: Resignation" by Humbert Wolfe,) but this time of year the words seem so right to describe the atmosphere that surrounds certain wind-blown autumn sports motoring events in this club. And on October 9 the back roads were indeed wild with leaves and a fair amount of off-and-on rain which put a Western Washington "dampener" (but not a damper) on the third annual PSMC corn maze run. Or is that a "maize maze?" We had 10 cars at the start, just a nice size meet, including (besides your reporters,) co-conspirator Charlotte Fellers, Tom Millar (Cindy was home with a cold,) Howard Lynch, Tommy Gores (Lindanne was off with the show dogs,) Larry & Emily Muir, Bob & Sally Thomas, David & Vickie Olson, Leif & Peg Loe, and Bob & Marti Mott.

The route took us from the Auburn Supermall down the old West Valley Highway, up Jovita Canyon where the interurban trolleys once ran, to Edgewood, back north into that no-man's-land that is the subject of land grabs between Auburn and Federal Way, a 1-lane corkscrew down into Algona, back up to Edgewood and through their farms to multiple hillclimbs and hill descents in Sumner Heights, along with some Ride Quality Testing on ancient concrete pavement. Then we went across the valley through the industrial parks (sorry) and up to Lake Tapps, then south past the old county poor farm to Alderton and the Spooner Farms Corn Maze. There were several loops involved, and if we took the street names off the turn instructions that route could be the start of a darn challenging competition rally. You'd be seeing Miatas going every direction at certain crossroads! On a road tour your hosts like to make the route instructions extra-specific, so if someone gets separated, they can easily find the route and catch up. Which some did.

In parallel, Charlotte had made up an Alice In Wonderland trivia quiz, which everybody was supposedly working as we cruised the route. Tom Millar ended up being the winner, which led everyone else to ask, "How DOES he know this stuff?" Now here's one more Alice-related trivia question for you. We saw a car with the personalized license plate "ML8-ML8." What kind of car was it, and what color? (Answer at the end of this article.)

The Alice In Wonderland thing was because that was the theme of the corn maze, and the venue was huge. There were 2.1 miles of paths to get lost in, and several places they bridged over one another. If you were on the "under" path and needed to go "over" the bridge there was no way to get up there until you backtracked and found the correct route. (The procedure might sound familiar to road rally enthusiasts.) This farmer's corn was super-densely planted and you couldn't see through the stalks anywhere, so everyone in the tangled maze was really flying blind. Your reporters kicked into the full rally navigation mode — Dee was "driving" and Duncan had his head in the provided map of the maze "navigating" — and he'd shout things like "Bear left at fork!" and when Dee spotted a fork we'd turn. Mind you, it is raining through all this and we are walking in mud. We found all 6 checkpoints in short order; deep in the maze there are rural



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:

**Miata Sounder : psmhome@comcast.net
 or tom.mackey@gmail.com
sounder@pugetsoundmiataclub.org**

ADVERTISING

<i>Classified - member</i>	<i>free</i>
<i>Classified - nonmember/business</i> \$20.00
<i>Business Card (1 col x 2 inches)</i>	\$20/month or \$180/yr paid in advance
<i>Business Card Ad for members</i>	\$15/month or \$120/yr paid in advance
<i>1/4 page</i> \$35.00
<i>1/2 page</i> \$65.00

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pugetsoundmiataclub.org

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

aftermath

CORN MAZE RUN III (cont'd)

mailboxes with paper punches in them, and when you check-in, you punch a distinctive mark into your score card. We paused to catch our breath and realized we'd been working the maze so hard we hadn't had any fun goofing around in the paths and castles and tunnels and doors and such. However, plenty of the distressed people we encountered on the paths seemed to be having a LOT of goofy fun, judging by their conversations ("Mommy, we TOLD you to bring your GPS!") On top of that, our paper score cards had melted in the rain, so we had nothing to turn in for the prize drawings. We did bring home plenty of farm mud (wear your Gore-Tex and L.L. Bean boots at this event) and the lot boy will have a chore to clean up the Miata, but it is wash-n-wear. The fresh-made mini-donuts sold on site were tasty, there were tons (literally) of pumpkins to buy, and the Farm Store had a fascinating variety of merchandise and exotic foods.

The post-maze potluck dinner was at your reporters' house, which is only about 300 feet from the "back forty" of the corn maze farm, assuming your Miata can drive straight up a cliff, knocking down saplings as you go. For the less intrepid motorists, we worked in about 4.80 more miles of twisty roads and pretty quick everyone was indoors and kicking off muddy boots and borrowing warm sweatshirts as they hung up soggy jackets to dry. Well, Bob Mott was selling his new warm dry Miata T-shirts, and he had a captive audience among your fellow club members Who Don't Know Enough To Come In Out Of The Rain. Amazing. The French provencale beef stew was hot in the slow cooker, and the salads and appetizers and baguettes and beverages rounded things out, be sure to save room for multiple desserts. The hot spiced cider drew so many comments, we are submitting the recipe to be published elsewhere in this issue if the editor has space.

So what's up next for our club's corn maze run? Will someone new take over? Will it move to the North End for new mazes and new participants? Drop in at the coming PSMC events planning meeting(s) and make it happen.

ANSWER to the trivia question above: It was a white VW Rabbit of course ("I'm late! I'm late!") "Curiouser and curiouser," said Alice.

HOT MULLED CIDER RECIPE

(as served at PSMC 2010 Corn Maze Run)

- 2 qts. apple cider
- 1/2 cup brown sugar (real, not diet)
- 1 tsp. whole allspice
- 1 and 1/2 tsp. whole cloves
- 2 sticks cinnamon
- a few thin orange slices

Put all ingredients in your slow cooker (Crock Pot brand or similar.) Put the whole spices in a tea infuser/strainer or tie in cheesecloth; if you don't do that, strain the cider before serving. Cover and cook on Low for 2 to 8 hours. Serve direct out of pot with a ladle.

upcoming

Dee's Big 65th Birthday Bash

We enjoy your company so please share this day with us

Make this your new year's celebration

or Come early and go on to more festivities

Enjoy great food and great company

At 2007 36th Street SE, Puyallup 98372

Save the Date

Friday

December 31, 2010

1:00 to 6:00 pm

Hosted by: Dee Dahlke and Duncan Johnson
Questions and RSVP to Duncan at
Duncanpjohnson@mac.com
253-845-2424

NO gifts please. It's the age of downsizing not accumulating. If you choose, you will have an opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation to Dee's favorite charity.

YWCA Pierce County

Domestic Violence Prevention Programs
and the first Women's Shelter in the state



Okanagan Topless Sun Run

*The 2011 Topless Sun Run committee
Okanagan Valley Miata Club*

It is with great pleasure that the Okanagan Valley Miata Club announces the return of the Topless Sun Run for 2011, and Puget Sound Miata Club members are invited.

The event will take place on the traditional Sun Run weekend, Friday, May 27 to Sunday, May 29, 2011 (Memorial Day weekend in the U.S.A.).

We plan to keep the event at a comfortable 180 people, the same size as the last Sun Run in 2008.

Due to overwhelming response in the past we have decided to open the 2011 event to members of Miata clubs only. To help insure that more Miata club members can attend, we will not be advertising the event to the general public, which means we will not be posting notices on the usual public websites and forums.

Also, rather than sending invitations to all previous attendees, this time around we will send an information package directly to each club for distribution to your members. The information package will be sent well in advance of registration.

The date and details of registration have not yet been set.

We are early in the planning stage, so few details are available at this point, but for scheduling purposes we thought it best to at least pass along our intent to host the event as well as the dates.

We look forward to seeing your club again in May!

Sincerely,

*The 2011 Topless Sun Run committee
Okanagan Valley Miata Club*

Miatas in Moab Part III *by Tom Mackey*

The road had tumbled down off the La Sal Mountains in steep drops, hair-pin curves, and the occasional off-camber sweeper, and I was having a great time – when I could ignore Marilyn’s screams, that is, as she “enjoyed” the stunning vistas with the crystal clarity that comes with the absence of any guard rails! Bedrock is in the flat bottom lands and from there you can see back to the La Sal’s, and you start to get a hint that you are in for a treat. A couple arrived in separate SUV’s, each with a bike and a kayak on the top and a large dog inside – It was time to take our leave – this place was about to be overrun!

We made the turn at Naturita and headed North again towards Gateway and Grand Junction. This part of the trip is through the Dolores River Canyon – a road neither of us had ever been on before. It was easily the prettiest part of our trip, with a twisty road, spectacular rock formations, a clear river, and even some historical sights. Back in the late 1800’s someone found some gold and had the bright idea of forming a company to build a set of “hanging flumes” to bring water five miles along the canyon wall to the placer deposit. The flume is hung from a sheer vertical canyon wall, and was such a feat of engineering that it is listed on the register of historical places. Much of the flume structure is still there, and can be viewed from several pullouts along the road. In the end, the gold company went bankrupt from the cost of building the flume, and the lack of gold; the deposit played out too quickly to even break even.

Along with the usual metal and minerals, some “yellow cake” (low-grade Uranium ore) was also mined in small scale operations in the canyon, and the tailings can be seen as you drive along. I have a friend whose family was involved in Uranium mining near this area of Colorado. When he had to get a Secret Clearance, the case worker had to go talk to all his past neighbors. He told the case worker that his town had so much radiation from the miners tracking it back that the EPA dug up the entire town site and buried everything, and then covered it over. There would be nothing left of his home town. During the follow-up, the case worker told him he was right – he had never seen anything like that before – an entire town literally wiped off the map!

But don’t let that stop you from visiting the Dolores River Canyon – the entire area is headed for Wilderness designation, and is covered with miles of hiking trails. Just out of the canyon proper is the little town of Gateway. The story we heard is that the town was built by the founder of The Discovery Channel to house his automobile collection, and to provide a destination in a beautiful spot. It is all modern and new, and we had a light lunch but could not stay because we were running low on time and we still wanted to stop at my step mothers’ house. I called her and explained we were running late and would not be able to stay long, but she told us she was glad we got to see the

Dolores canyon – it was one of her favorite spots and she has spent most of her life on the “Western Slope”, as this area of Colorado is known.

We had a too-short visit and then we were off back to the Red Rock Inn for the closing banquet. Mazda had done themselves proud and we all got a goodie bag with a nice coffee table book on the history of the MX-5 Miata, a coffee cup that changes color with heat, bottled water, Miata pins and stickers, and so forth. They sent six pallets of stuff to the gathering, and the Utah Miata Club, Salt Lake Chapter, made the trek down in March, tops down!, to take delivery and separate it out. The winery at Red Rocks Inn let them use their loading dock, and stored the goodies until we all arrived to cart them away. Nice people, both at Mazda, and at Red Rocks Inn.

We ended up sharing a table and bottle of excellent wine with a couple from the other Puget Sound area Miata club, but their names escape me. Once dinner was done, we headed back towards Moab along the river, filled with lots of memories and good food.

The drive home was “fastest time, shortest distance” and we made the 900 mile drive to Richland in just under 18 hours, where we decided that trying to make it the last 4 hours to home was not worth it. Google Maps and Susie-Q, our Garmin Nuvi 660 navigation unit, said we should do it in about 14 hours, but we stop for meals and soft drinks fairly often and don’t over do it. I did all the driving and can say with certainty that the “NC” model, the third generation, is much more comfortable than the “NB”. I loved our 10th Anniversary Special Miata, but Miss Daisy is a whole other level of comfort. The NC is a little harder to get in and out of due to the increased safety afforded by the steel beams in the door and door sills. It is a bit like sitting in a pan, like many other modern cars. However, once I get in, I have support in all the right places. I can drive for hours before I need to get out to stretch, then I can get right back in and drive for more hours. I hope you enjoyed reading about our adventures. I will post this along with other stories from our road trips at <http://travelers-traces.blogspot.com/>. I already posted the first two parts of this trip, corrected and enhanced, and with more pictures. See you along the road!



LeMay Museum Progress Report

by Dee Dahlke ('99 silver "Road Dancer") & Duncan Johnson

We were invited to a LeMay Museum reception this fall where their director of development Dominic Dobson (yes, the Indy racer from a few years back) outlined progress to date and where the museum stands with its future plans. Since LeMay has potential to be "the 900-pound gorilla in the room" for the entire cool car hobby hereabouts, we are reporting what we learned.

First, and most important, construction is well underway on the new museum structure next to the Tacoma Dome. Dirt has been flying, concrete is poured and walls are going up. A webcam of the job site is available on the museum's web site (<http://www.lemaymuseum.org>) Completion is indicated for late in 2011, but it's still too early to set an opening date.

The museum leadership has shifted their emphasis from "raising money to start a museum" to actually "operating a museum." Many concepts have changed since the museum was first conceived, which probably isn't too surprising. The good news is that their slogan, "Celebrating America's love affair with the automobile," is taking on real meaning, and it will differentiate LeMay from many other museums.

The museum is positioning itself as an events-and-experiences venue, not just static rows of dusty old cars. There will be about 150 cars on active display at any time, plus others stored in the basement, and the displays will change regularly as the current "theme" changes. Most of them will NOT be roped off; it will be very much an up-close-and-personal active experience.

The current cruise-ins, road tours and appearances of cars from the collection at major shows will continue. The new museum will have a large show field (grass surface with stabilizing structure underneath so it doesn't become a mud bog,) education and meeting rooms and hospitality areas, and non-museum clubs and groups will be invited to stage their own auto-related events there so the place will be very much "alive." It will also be the location of the Tacoma branch of Club Auto, the membership venue where members can store and service their classic cars, meet-n-greet, and hold social events (all at the appropriate cost, of course.)

In our opinion, LeMay's location will anchor one end of the revitalized and now rather intellectual Tacoma downtown, along with the University of Washington, the federal courthouse, and a raft of other significant museums and their attendant galleries. LeMay was planned to be a "destination" attraction from the get-go, a place to which people from near and far will make deliberate visits (not just drop-ins,) and it appears they will now succeed at that. It will be an economic multiplier for the whole South Sound.

Once curious problem was reported, relating to LeMay's clever title of "America's Car Museum." It was designed to mean that the museum had something for everybody, but some number of people have taken it to mean it is a museum for American cars only. In reality the collection's span is global. No doubt the publicists can work out a solution without losing the intended thrust.

The LeMay Museum's need for money continues unabated. Like most museums, admission fees will cover only a fraction of their expenses. The rest will come from memberships, gifts, grants and donations, "adopting" cars in the collection (which should be more fun than adopting a highway,) plus zillions of hours of volunteer work.

For the latest fund raiser they are selling engraved bricks to be permanently installed in the patio at one end of the main museum building. They start at only \$100 and might be a dandy way to memorialize your car (or even a person) forever. Details at the museum web site.

Yes, you can donate your car for a tax writeoff, but that doesn't mean it will become part of the collection. All donated cars are reviewed, but only specific models the museum needs are kept; most are auctioned to raise cash. Full disclosure here: we are museum charter members.

Finally, we pointedly asked what is going on with the cars and what will be the future of the Marymount Academy site and the LeMay Home. When Harold LeMay died, all of his 3000+ cars did not go to the museum. The museum got title to about 500 cars, a broad cross-section, and they have bought and sold within that to get what they wanted for their permanent display collection.

In parallel, a great number of duplicates, parts cars, and outright junkers have been auctioned away. Nancy LeMay (Harold's wife) retains over 1000 cars and Doug LeMay (son) has several hundred more, each in their private collections, which would be significant attractions even without a formal museum. Their futures have not been disclosed.

The LeMay family (not the museum) still owns the Marymount and LeMay Home sites, although they don't actually live there any more. For now they have some kind of operating agreement for the museum to occupy and use Marymount, so things still flow back and forth. Stay tuned for more on this "work in progress."



President's Message

by Mike Springer
PSMC President

The snow in the passes this week, Crystal Mountain opening the upper ski runs, the thermometer readings outside my window are all unmistakable signs fall has left the stage. Many of our cars have their hard lids in place, the summer weather garage queens are back in their throne rooms. I'm sitting in my chair by the fire looking at the new Moss catalogue, wondering what I just must have for my Miata, and my mind starts to wander to toward a new summer season. In my mind's eye there are tops back down as a line of multi-colored cars weave along a twisty back road. It will take more than a warm fire to get me past the cold damp winter to come, the promise of new adventures with my club friends is also necessary. However it takes more than day dreaming to make these pleasant visions a reality.

At our November planning meeting, the ground work was laid for the next year. There will be another meeting in January to expand on the calendar of events, watch the PSMC website for updates and to make reservations.

While my memories for the last year's events are fresh, I want to thank all of the event hosts for their efforts. Planning and hosting an event can vary from simple to extremely detailed and intensive. The variety on our calendar is a great draw for our club and it all comes from our event hosts efforts.

I hope to see you all at an event next year.

New Faces

Cara Clark	Gig Harbor	WA
Emily & Larry Muir	Renton	WA
Jenna & Penny Slingerland	Seattle	WA
Ruth & Richard Jaslowski	Renton	WA
Steve Creed	Monroe	WA
LeRoy & Barbara Burgess	Tahuya	WA
John Boespflug	Lakewood	WA

The Blue Time Machine

By John D. Boespflug
AKA "The Wanderer"

I'm getting younger; I'm reversing the clock and pushing it backwards.

I have now lost 43 pounds in 5 months. Now my arthritis doesn't bother me, and I don't have to take my pain pills. I've already had my triple bypass and had my eyes rebuilt with permanent lenses . . . 20-20 vision now!

I have all this new energy and everything works better now. I made up my own diet plan because the V.A. said that I had crossed over the borderline and was now officially a diabetic.

I now have it controlled with only diet into a normal range. The earth shaking secret is eat only one meal a day starting out and walk a whole lot more, cut out all sugar and drink only decaf. That's it! Oh, and eat smaller portions and eat healthier. I found out that you actually lose weight while you are sleeping! The down side is that you might start buying sports cars like me. For me, right now they are Miatas. I find that they make me happy – real simple!

So now I am riding my own personal time machine into the Past!

Found a good place for that one good meal day. St. Claire Hospital in Lakewood. Anyone can eat in their café and the food is really good and healthy. For \$5.25 you can have a choice of a main dish and two sides to go with it. And if you buy coffee you can also get a refill to take with you. The food is already cooked and ready to go. Best of all they also give you a free newspaper to go along with your food. And now they even give an extra 20% discount off of the whole thing because I am a frequent eater!

There is a line in this song that goes:

Life's been good – Soo far, and it has!

A few words of wisdom: A mind once stretched with a new idea – never returns to its original dimensions. And I've been stretching the heck out of mine lately!



2010/2011 Calendar

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

December 2010

- 31 Dee Dalhke's Big Birthday Party! Puyallup. Cruise in for an afternoon casual party and then head off to your nighttime celebrations.

January/ February/March 2011

January 15 - Planning Meeting - Northend time & place: TBA

February 12 - Wine & Chocolate Tour - Woodinville

March 4 - First Friday Formal - time & place: TBA



Familiar Faces

Barbara Mitten	91 BRG
John & Rose Scheidt	00 Emerald Green
Eric & Barbara Cooley	02 Yellow Darrell &
Stephanie Hooper	08 Highland Green
Tom & Cindy Smith	00 Green
Fred and Sandi Holler	03 Garnet Red
Frank Shriver and Carol	93 Red
Jack & Mary Ann Wise	96 White
Sean & Pam McGriff	09 smartcar
Laurie & Ron Doering	94 RED
Fredrick and Bev Rudd	01 BRG
Brian & Ling Louderback	92 Mariner Blue
Robert & Jacqueline Schouten	99 Silver
Bill and Mary Dee Countiss	90 BMW Blue
Andrew Burns	97 Montego Blue
Robert and Evelyn Gunther	91 Silver
Jeff and Peggy Tague	99 Silver
J. Pat & Carolyn Baughman	92 White
Lawrence and Sandra Bicknell	08 Highland Green
Leif and Peggie Loe	96 Red
Helen Kester	00 Mahogany Mica
Bob Sinon	06 Velocity Red



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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 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 98057

Puget Sound Miata Club
222 Wells Ave. N
Renton, WA 98057

Have an article for the Sounder?

Remember these tip if you would like to submit an article:

--Before you submit articles, change the font to the Sounder's default font, Arial, 10-point.

--At the end of each sentence, use one space, not two. It saves space and most publications use this format; so do we.

--Send articles as an attachment; don't paste them into the email window. This creates an extra step for the editor, who already has a lot to do.

--If you send photos, send j-pegs. We have to "photoshop" them anyway for publication, so just send them straight from your digital camera.

--Send 3-5 photos, not 25-30. We need your BEST photos, not all of them.

--The deadline for the next month is the 15th of the current month.

--The event host is responsible for writing pre-run articles and finding a volunteer to write a post-run article. Always send photos too.

Thanks to the following Miata dealers and businesses who provide PSMC member discounts (simply show your PSMC Card):

Coop's Miata of Maple Valley (425) 432-9666

Doug's Lynnwood Mazda (425) 774-3551

Mazda of Everett (425) 353-3403

Louie Orrino at South Tacoma Mazda (253) 722-2888/Cost plus 20%

University Mazda of Seattle (206) 634-1191

Whidbey Island Mazda of Oak Harbor (360) 675-2218

Miata Top Bob's, (206) 782-8081