

# Miata Sounder



The Oldest Miata Club in the United States

October 2011

## PSMC Autumn Rallye 2011

### PSMC Autumn Rallye helps club thrive

*Editors note: Another apology – I used the wrong headline on last month's newsletter's front page, and there are indications that some people did not bother to read it, thinking it was old news. Please be aware that the club website, [www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org) also has current information on upcoming events.*



The Second Annual PSMC Autumn Rallye, which serves as the only club fundraiser, is set to go for the 2011 version. Check-in time is 9:30 a.m. from Coop's Miata in Maple Valley. Roads will feature lots of vibrant fall color and some great curves. In addition, a poker run will be rolled into this year's run, along with stops at two landmarks in King County.

We invite all participants to join the board in donating canned food to the Maple Valley Food Bank as part of this all-club event. You can drop off your canned goods when you arrive and the board will make sure they get delivered to the food bank. It's one way we can help out local communities through our club membership.

Cost for the rallye is \$20 (pre-registered, \$25 on day of event) per car, which includes your drive directions, two raffle tickets, one lunch ticket, and one commemorative gift of a glass with the logo for the rallye on it. We anticipate everyone leaving on the drive at the same time, following our hosts, Bill Cooper and Karen Perry. A hot dog lunch will follow our return to Coop's Miata, followed by awards to winners, and the drawing for raffle prizes. Expect the chance to win some useful car cleaning items as well as some other interesting prizes.

We'll be selling additional lunch tickets for \$2 if you bring a carload and we'll have additional raffle tickets available for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. You will be able to deposit your tickets in the box for the item you'd like to win, so we are encouraging you to buy a lot of tickets to guarantee the win!

Plan to arrive for check-in and sign the insurance waiver at 9:30 a.m. A driver's meeting will commence at 10 a.m. and then we'll head out.

To pre-register go to our website at [www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org) and RSVP and download a pre-registration form.

### Directions to Coop's Miata:

From I-405, take the Maple Valley Highway Exit and go about 10 miles. You will pass the Maple Valley Market on your right and about another mile or so up the hill you will come to a four way intersection. A fire station is on the left and a park-n-ride lot is on the right. This intersection is controlled by a stoplight. Turn right and go up the hill about a mile. You will see Coop's Miata on the left after you crest the first hill.

From Hwy 18, take the Maple Valley Exit. Turn so you are going up the hill. If you end up at the Fire Station, turn around and go the opposite direction. You will see Coop's Miata on the left after you crest the first hill.

*(Ed.: If you would like your navigation unit to take you there, plug in:*

**20929 SE 232<sup>nd</sup> Street,  
Maple Valley.)**



**When: Saturday, October 8th, Check in starts at 9:30 a.m.**

**Hosted by: PSMC BOD**

**Contact: Charlotte Fellers**

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## Legal Stuff

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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**

**Tom.mackey@gmail.com**

**[sounder@pugetsoundmiataclub.org](mailto:sounder@pugetsoundmiataclub.org)**

Classified/members	free
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## Another update on electronic newsletters

We've had a few more members switch to e-delivery. The issue will be brought up at the next board meeting. I will be finding out more on how our web site operates, as I am hoping to eventually make our archive of newsletters available on our site. Currently we have Sounders going back to 2007 here:

[http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org/misc/list\\_sounders.php](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org/misc/list_sounders.php)

Since we switched to MS Publisher, the links you see in the pdf's, such as the one directly above, are live. Keep the comments coming, please.

**tom.mackey@gmail.com**

## Fall Board Meeting at Mitzel's in Fife

**When: November 5 at 11 a.m.**

**Hosts: PSMC Board**

**Contact: editorcharlotte@gmail.com**

If you are planning to host an event or plan a drive for the 2012 calendar year for the PSMC, then you need to try and make it to the Fall Calendar Planning Meeting on November 5. The fun starts at 11 a.m. with early lunch at Mitzel's in Fife.



At 11:45 or so, we'll commence setting the calendar for 2012. This involves you telling the board the date and concept for your drive so we can block the date on the calendar for you. This prevents numerous events happening on the same day and gives everyone notice to plan their activi-

ties accordingly. It's best to come with a first and second choice date in mind so if others have events planned, you can work with everyone's schedule.

Following the planning meeting, the board will have its fall board meeting, commencing at 1 p.m. The room is available until 2 p.m. so this meeting will adjourn at 2 p.m. We'll be discussing the success and expenses for the past two board-sponsored events, membership numbers, and the potential for an anniversary party in January. A budget review is also on the agenda and the board will vote on the proposed change to the fee structure for those who wish to receive the newsletter via US Mail versus online.

Anyone in the club is welcome and encouraged to attend either or both parts of the meeting. If you have an event you'd like to calendar but cannot attend the meeting, then please notify one of the board members and let them know the first and second-choice dates you have in mind and the name of the event so it will be on the calendar.

You may RSVP on the website.



## PSMC Halloween Party 2011

**When: October 29th, 6 p.m. in Renton**

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

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

### "Choose Your Own Route Tour"

This year's Miata Halloween party starts off with a tour of your own choosing. Start by leaving your home, driving your Miata on your favorite road enjoying the fall colors and feel the chill in the air. Plan on ending up in downtown Renton at 6:30pm. Once in Renton, navigate your way to 222 Wells Ave N. But be prepared, the spirit may move us to make your arrival a FRIGHT! The McGriffs welcome you to an evening of hors d'oeuvres, snacks, drinks, and the living dead

(aka, fun). The entry fee is a plate of hors d'oeuvres or snacks to share. Be sure to be in costume, as there will be prizes involved. Regaling of the best tall tale in the spirit of the evening will also be rewarded!



Directions:  
For best results, use Google maps or MapQuest.

From 405 heading south:  
Take exit 5 toward Park Ave N  
Merge onto NE Park Dr  
Turn left onto Park Ave N  
Turn right onto N 2nd St  
Turn right onto Wells Ave N

From 405 heading north:  
Take exit 4 toward WA-900 W/Bronson Way  
Turn right onto WA-169 N  
Continue onto Bronson Way N  
Turn right onto Park Ave N  
Slight left onto N 1st St  
Take the 2nd right onto Wells Ave N



### Post Holiday Mall Prowl

**When: November 26th, 7 a.m. in Bellevue**

**Host: Charlotte Fellers**

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



Rather than slip into a Thanksgiving food-induced coma, why not get into the holiday spirit and do some shopping instead? The Mall Prowl is for those who didn't brave the crowds for Friday's "day-after-Thanksgiving" sales but still want to get a jump on holiday shopping.

The Mall Prowl Drive will be geared toward getting the shopping chore out of the way early in the season. We will meet in Bellevue for breakfast at 7 a.m. (restaurant will be announced on the website). Following that, we'll head to Bellevue Square for some early morning treasure hunting before driving down to Westfield Center (you may know it as Southcenter Mall—new name, lots of new stores and restaurants and lots more parking). If you aren't hungry for lunch, you can grab a snack at this stop and do a little more

shopping before we head south to Tacoma Mall for the final shopping stop.

Bellevue Square has plenty of parking and some stores that don't appear at the other two malls (some stores are at all three malls while some are at just one mall and not the other two). The last two malls also have a number of shopping venues that are not *in* the mall but on the surrounding streets. For instance, Griot's is just down the street from Tacoma Mall and there may be some great gifts for gear heads there.

Maybe you are all about driving and eating, in which case, you can join us for breakfast in Bellevue and dinner at Copper Falls Restaurant at the Auburn Golf Course. If it's a nice day, you may even choose to play a round of golf beforehand. Copper Falls features a beautiful dining room with a cozy fire-

place and a varied menu of food choices.

You may not have much shopping to do, in which case you can spend the day hobnobbing with other Miata folks and catching up on you people watching skill-set. You could get a picture with the Big Guy in Red, or browse the new books at the bookstore. Coffee is always an option at all three venues.

The point here is, why not join us, because all of these activities are more fun when you do them with your friends. And, how can you go wrong with eating and driving? (If you have another vehicle you'd rather bring, that's okay too).

Please RSVP on the website and watch there for the final decision on a meeting place.

## Awards Luncheon

**When: January 21st at 2:00 p.m. in Redmond**

**Host: PSMC Board**

**Contact: Mike Springer at (252) 468-5291**

The club has many members who work hard to provide events which enrich the club experience with a wide variety of events. The PSMC Board wants to recognize these members.

Please join us at: Azteca Mexican Restaurant

3040 – 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast

Redmond, WA 98052

Phone: [\(425\) 881-8700](tel:(425)881-8700)

Website: [www.aztecamex.com](http://www.aztecamex.com)

Directions from I-405 North or South bound

1 – Take Exit 14 (SR 520) East bound

2 – Take the 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. N. Exit (the 2<sup>ND</sup> 148<sup>th</sup> Exit)

3 – Turn right onto 148<sup>th</sup>

4 - one block North bound on 148<sup>th</sup>

The restaurant will be visible on the right side

Turn right on NE 31<sup>st</sup> Cir. and park in the lot.

Either RSVP on the website or call

Mike Springer at (252) 468-5291

Hosted by the PSMC Board

## Upcoming Events — Something for Everyone!

### October 2011

1 PSMC Corn Maze Run IV, this time in the north end. Host Charlotte Fellers [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)

8 PSMC second Autumn Rally, location TBD, host PSMC Board [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)

29 PSMC Halloween Party, Renton. Hosts: McGriffs. [psmhome@comcast.net](mailto:psmhome@comcast.net)

31 Bremerton Safe Trick-or-Treat, 5PM. Host: Mindy [fun4sun@wavecable.com](mailto:fun4sun@wavecable.com)

### November 2011

5 Planning and Board meeting, 11 a.m., Mitzels in Fife. Hosts: PSMC Board [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)

26 Mall Prowl, 7 a.m. Host: Charlotte Fellers [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)

### January 2011

21 Awards Luncheon, 2 p.m., Azteca in Redmond. Hosts: PSMC Board [editorcharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:editorcharlotte@gmail.com)

**Note: Watch the PSMC website for the latest and sometimes changing information**

## Bremerton Safe Trick-or-Treat

**When: October 31, 5 p.m. in Bremerton**

**Host: Mindy Bohnas, [fun4sun@wavecable.com](mailto:fun4sun@wavecable.com)**

Join Mindy after work from 5-8pm  
parking in alleys and streets to help  
keep kids safe while they have fun

## New Faces — Welcome!

Name	Location	Car
Garett Polehonka	Olympia, WA	99 Emerald Green
Rodney & Cherie Booth	Tacoma, WA	91 Red
Cathy Amburgey	Roy, WA	91 Red
Stephen & Carol Paris	Black Diamond, WA	01 Crystal Blue
Vicki Sullivan	Gig Harbor, WA	90 Mariner Blue
Alice Ingle	Hansville, WA	91 Mariner Blue

## Familiar Faces — Glad to see you back!

Name	Location	Car	Yrs Mbr
John & Linda Mann	Anacortes, WA	02 Yellow	5
Mike & DeeDee Henry	Puyallup, WA	00 Red	1
Joseph & Laura Childers	Tumwater, WA	91 Silver	3
Ron & Nancy Edmiston	Federal Way	11 Black	11
Billy Stansfield	Bellevue, WA	99 Emerald Green	2
Mindy & Rory Bohnas	Port Orchard, WA	05 Lava Orange	16
Pat & Dick Foster	Sequim, WA	90 Mariner Blue	19
Rick Hardy	Des Moines, WA	99 White	7
Brad & Pam Gibbs	Sammamish	06 Copper Red	4

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**Charlotte shares her maze strategy**

first.

Once we found that first stop and punched our ticket, it was pretty easy to get the rest and then we had to circle back and get the first two. On the way out, yours truly got himself in trou-

ble by not listening closely enough to She Who Must Be Obeyed, and we lost a bunch of time before we, (I, actually) agreed that coming out the entrance made a lot more sense.

When we got out, our time was so abysmal that we decided to skip the second maze and spend our last \$13 on fresh squash, corn, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, leeks, carrots, and other veggies. Many have since been made into soups and other dishes already – Fall is our favorite food season!

Once we all arrived at Charlotte's house, we commenced to enjoy hearty stews and chili dishes with sides brought by others. It was wonderful and a hush fell over the assembled multitude as we fell into "a food coma" as Charlotte put it.

Afterwards we answered trivia questions about football and compared

times it took to find all six stops in each maze. Dee and Duncan won the Corn Maze prize, and Bill Bell won the foot-



**Miata-kins and Pumpkins**

ball trivia prize. We all had such a great time that maybe next year we will try a maze in the North end! Thanks, Charlotte – it was an A-Mazing day!

**Group picture: Front: Charlotte, Mindy. Middle: Marilyn, Dee, Lilly, Pam, Vera. Back: Mike, AJ, Sean, Sandy, Vickie. Not shown: Tom & Duncan (taking photos), Bill, Norma. Any errors are all mine and unintentional. –T**

## Past Events

### South Bend Road Run and Parade

by Dee Dahlke ('99 silver "Road Dancer") & Duncan Johnson  
photos by Ron Doering and the authors

There actually are people in this Miata club who get up early and drive to Centralia, Wash., for a club breakfast before even starting on a morning road run. For the 2011 edition of South Bend we were expecting a token showing of maybe a half-dozen cars, but the run group expanded to (besides your reporters) Miatas containing John Boespflug (in yet another newly-acquired NA,) Karen & John Brau, Vicki & Judy Burr-Chellin, Ron & Laurie Doering, Charlotte Fellers, Cheryl & Allan Ohlsen, Gary Tagles, Sally & Bob Thomas, new members Cindy & Kelly Ferrel, plus later meet-ups in South Bend with Bill Bell & Pam and the Umemotos who provided princess Kate color-keyed to Charlotte's decorated car. Non-members came by to visit at the staging area and joined us for the parade: Dave and Patty Smith of Lewis County and Garlis Mullix, Pacific County. Good show! Twelve Miatas in all.



**"Come And Play On Labor Day" is what they call it in South Bend, so we did.**

To answer a recurring question, yes we really do stay awake at night dreaming up obscure roads for our club runs. And yes, we do pre-runs to get "ground truth" of mileages and road names that on-line sources just don't know (and to exercise our sports cars for a Worthy Cause.) We even publish detailed route instruction handouts so nobody need get lost. At least theoretically nobody gets lost. But if you arrange tactfully placed rest stops they can catch up and regroup. So that's how the road tour went west by head-

ing north out of Centralia, then zooming back over Cooks Hill to Claquato and twisting south to Curtis and Boistfort on a mostly newly-discovered course. Come to think of it, we entered Pe Ell from their Columbia River side. Hmmmm. It's a small town and our Miatas made quite a panorama, parked along the main street when we pulled in for a pit stop. Then it was an easy shot across highway 6 to Menlo, our favorite hillclimb course up Fern Hill with its challenging hairpin, and finally a gentle dawdle into Raymond and South Bend at a pace calculated not to upset the vigilant Local Authorities.



**Sunday morning on Main Street, Pe Ell, Washington (pop. 632). The public works department has just rolled out the village sidewalk for PSMC's pleasure.**

Normally there are hints of fall for this run; the first trees changing color, farmers buttoning up for winter, ominous clouds and chill breezes in the air. But not this year. We enjoyed full-on summer sunshine all the way. Couldn't ask for a nicer day for roadster driving on the two-lane blacktop.



**Legal disclaimer: Amateur drivers on open road; OK to attempt.**

The South Bend parade has shrunk in number of floats and marching units,

but not in noise, nor number of glad-handing politicians, nor the quantity or enthusiasm of people lining the route. If you've never been to this hilarious event, which is part of an all-weekend festival, here's a word of explanation: There is only one through street in town, and it is US 101, so the parade uses the northbound lane of the highway while the police set up a pilot car arrangement to shuttle the regular traffic back and forth in the southbound lane. Would be a bit funky for big city dwellers, but it does work well for resourceful country folks.



**Princess Kate aboard president Charlotte's Miata. There are worse places to parade than against a backdrop of the river opening into Willapa Bay.**

There is a very animated parade announcer up on a stand who broadcasts what each passing unit is, and we pre-loaded him with prepared notes about PSMC when we sent in our registration last spring. Next year we're going to give him our club's motto: "We may not win all the races, but we've never lost a party!" Our Miata group was staged 48th of 65 units, so when we did get to the end, the free warm sodas and free cold hot dogs promised to participants had long since run out, as they often do. We are beginning to wonder if those treats even exist. Our conspiracy theory is that the parade committee economizes by piling up their empty soda cans and mustard containers all year and they make a big show of appearing to be cleaning up the party debris just as the first parade units arrive at the finish line. Oh, sorry, you just missed the food; better luck next time.

## Past Events (Continued)

Ha! PSMC fooled them! This year we had arranged for a short post-parade run back to Slater's Diner in Raymond, where we gathered 'round for some "bench racing" in their 1950s atmosphere of burgers and shakes, served in the slow food tradition. Very slow. But it did hit the spot.

When the meal finished, it was interesting to note the homeward-bound Miatas set out for all three corners of the map (you can't go west, there's an ocean in the way) which is quite a trib-

ute to the diversity of our very excellent club. Your hosts headed off toward home mostly the way we came. However, being Labor Day weekend we avoided all freeways and enjoyed more back roads. We were pleasantly surprised when we passed through Roy that their annual Labor Day weekend Rodeo had finished and even those roads were clear for cruising. We hope you'll keep your calendar open to join us next year. This was a marvelous day!



Objects in mirror are zooming

## SUNSET HIGHWAY AUTO TRAIL TOUR

by Dee Dahlke ('99 silver "Road Dancer") & Duncan Johnson  
photos by Ron Doering and the authors

There's a saying among scientists that we are all standing on the shoulders of those who did research and exploration before us. In the case of today's motor enthusiasts, WE are all driving on the pavement of those who built the roads before us. Between Seattle and Snoqualmie Pass there is quite a history to be discovered, for those who care to zoom with their eyes wide open. Before we had Interstate 90 (which got its present configuration about 1976) there was US 10 (configured around 1940) along the route, and before that Primary State Highway 2, and before that the Sunset Highway Auto Trail. That gets us back to about 1915. Earlier you had to take the Milwaukee Railroad over the pass or a dirt wagon road to Fort Walla Walla. Amazingly, many of the alignments of the earlier routes can still be driven today.

Which is what about a baker's dozen of Miatas did under the leadership of Allan & Cheryl Ohlsen on the first semi-rainy day of the fall sports motoring season, which meant a lot of indecisions about tops up or tops down, and a few roadside pit stops to adjust weather attire. PSMC zoomers in attendance (besides the leaders and your reporters) included: Dennis & Nellie Butterfield, John Campbell, Kelly & Cindy Ferrel, Mike & DeeDee Henry, Dana Jorgenson, A.J. & Vickie McGranaghan, Emily Muir, Larry Muir,

Shelly Muir, Gary Tagles, Sandra Wallace & David Leggate, and Bill Bell, who caught up enroute. If we missed you in the crowd, we apologize. Note some newish faces on the list, too; nice to see you out zooming.



Zooming through the mists of Snoqualmie Pass.

In olden days (pre-1940) there were no floating bridges, so the main path east from Seattle had to go around the south end of Lake Washington. To reprise the course in the 21st century the hosts provided a booklet of very excellent route instructions packaged with historic photos and narratives. Wow, a club tour handout with a Bibliography! Nice work! Our PSMC tour began at South Boeing Field, right there on old US 99 (but that's another bit of road lore for another day,) following the historic route of PSH 2 across M.L. King Way (Empire Way in the period we are re-enacting) to Renton, with a small zoom through the former coal mining country along the way.

Then northeast out of Renton we picked up Sunset Blvd., which segued into the Renton-Issaquah Highway. Out of Issaquah we were on Sunset Way (are you sensing a pattern here?) then a short bit of I-90 (built atop the old roads there,) and off to High Point Way which became the Preston Fall City Road. In Fall City we turned toward Snoqualmie (now SR 202) with another side zoom on and off Fish Hatchery Road, and finally our first pit stop at the Snoqualmie Falls scenic overlook. Here the tour leaders get our award for the Nicest Rest Rooms Ever on any club run, because we were able to avail ourselves of the luxury facilities at the very upscale Salish Lodge. A wedding reception was getting underway, and the bride was amused at our sports cars' arrival, pointing out that the lucky couple was making their getaway in a fully restored red 1965 Mustang convertible. How sweet it is! Just east of the lodge there is big construction on the falls powerplant, so our group assembled in the left turn lane, and LeMans Started (to the right for a change!) into traffic with enthusiastic waves from a very animated grinning traffic flagger. It was one of those "moments" that make Miata runs so much fun.

Observations from the middle of the pack. The LeMans Starts on this run were executed much better than your

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## Past Events ( Continued )

(Continued from page 7)

reporters have seen in a long time. The “caboose” (Larry and Shelly) blocked aggressively and the waiting Miatas turned into the traffic lane smartly and moved out. Everyone also did well at the “breadcrumb” maneuver, pausing at a turn point to be sure the following car saw where to go (which of course automatically slowed down the tour group ahead, and we avoided separations and regrouping.)

Olde Towne Snoqualmie Centre was steeped in logging and railroad history, and their side roads were steeped in Local Authorities, so we zoomed gently there, popping out on Bendigo Road (also labeled Old Sunset Highway, hmmm...) which turned us onto North Bend Way, obviously the once-upon-a-time US 10 from the pre-Interstate era. Oh, we could just envision broken down '37 Chevy sedans limping into big garages along the highway, and double-clutching truckers stopping for coffee at greasy spoon diners. Norman Rockwell and John Steinbeck would have loved it. We were forced onto I-90 for a bit, but managed to find one deviation onto an abandoned section of old US 10 near Olalie State Park.



**This hairpin is actually in the median of Interstate-90, west of the summit of Snoqualmie Pass. How nice of WSDOT to save the old road just for us!**

Now the big news. Our run group discovered you can still drive the path of the very first Auto Trail up the west side of Snoqualmie Pass. It is hidden down in the canyon between the two mountainside roadways of I-90, and freeway cruisers on that breathtaking Denny Creek Viaduct would never guess there is an old road hundreds of feet below them. Just get off the freeway at Exit 47 and follow onto Denny Creek Road. It has good pavement, very narrow and twisty, with some steep switchbacks and hairpins, and it is The Real Thing which pops you out at the summit right by the Alpentel resort. Who woulda thunk it? For more

intrepid explorers... and not part of today's run... we're told PSH 2 then continued east through Cle Elum, thence north over Old Blewett Pass (now a frighteningly deteriorated forest road which “Road Dancer” has tried and does not recommend,) and finally through Wenatchee and on to Spokane, following roughly what is today's US 2.

Late lunch was at the Summit Pancake House, where lively table debates sprung up on the merits of automatic vs. manual transmissions and the pros and cons of the three generations of Miatas. That latter added to the historic atmosphere of the run, because to certain Tribal Elders present it was exactly like the old-time debates which surrounded the evolution of the MG TC/TD/TF, the Porsche 356 A/B/C, or the Jaguar XK-120/140/150. One model is always “the original,” the second is always “improved, but just not the same,” and the third has “all the nice new features, but They have totally ruined it.” Funny, but as time goes by somehow they all become classics to later generations. And that, my beloved children, is why we road warriors still gather 'round the campfire and recite the ancient epic poems.

## A-Maze-ing Corn Maze Run, by Tom Mackey

As we passed from the bright Autumn sun shining in the open area in the middle of the maze to the dark and narrow wood-chip lined corn-walled corridor, we met two other intrepid adventurers from our Miata tour. They pointed back and said, “Number 9 is just back there.” Number 9? Oh drat! That means we missed the first turn that should have led us to Number 7. Would we get out in time to make it to Charlotte's house before all the food was gone?

The A-Mazing Corn Maze Run started drizzly as we pulled in to the meeting place in Renton. When our fearless leader arrived, we had nine cars in all, including a guest from Miatas Northwest with very pretty pin striping on her red 1<sup>st</sup> gen, and Sean and Pam in Maxwell Smart. If they haven't already

named their Smart Car, then they had better do so soon, or my name will stick! I've been intrigued with Smart cars since I first saw them in Europe back in 1999. Our Belgian tour bus driver said they were good for hauling around 2 people and a case of beer. Sean says he thinks it will hold two cases. I think Belgian beer cases are bigger!

After a winding and scenic route that covered 40-some miles on some of the best Miata roads that south sound has to offer, we arrived at the corn mazes in two groups – somehow the leader and about 3 cars got separated from the rest of us who fell in behind Road-Dancer carrying Dee and Duncan. With Duncan as navigator, Dee brought the rest of the group right to the mazes with alacrity.

We took a few minutes to admire the fresh vegetables, took some group photos in front of a display of pumpkins and then wandered into the mazes.



**Duncan considers a camera upgrade**

There was one for Cougs and one for Dawgs – we chose the WSU maze

(Continued on page 5)

## Past Events ( Continued )

### More from Historic Races at Pacific International Raceways 2011

How to assemble the fastest car at the track -- a 1978 Lola GR2 nicknamed "The Frisbee"



start with a chassis



Fit cowling over driver's office



Fit a nose piece to slice thru the air and keep the driver's toes warm



Keep the air intake far above the driver so he doesn't get sucked in



Tuning the engine on the second fastest car — Jackie Stewart's F1 championship car

# President's Message October 2011

By Charlotte Fellers



I'm writing this on the first day of fall, which, in typical Washington fashion, dawned warm and sunny (welcome to summer, everyone). The forecast is for the temperatures to climb to 79 today, so I'll be driving my Miata.

Speaking of summer, it has been a busy one for us Miata lovers. We had a dozen cars make the trek to the Red Mountain Wine Tour. We visited several fine wineries, including some that looked like they were plucked from the mountainsides of Italy rather than built from scratch in our lovely state. At every stop, we were greeted with hospitality and friendly people, so the weekend was another memorable Miata event. Thanks to the hosts once again for the fine time we all had. I took my mom with me on the tour and we drove from there to Bend, Oregon, to spend the night on our way to the Ashland area. The fires this summer caused us to put the top up so we didn't have to breathe the smoke as it was pretty thick around Bend. Thankfully, the next day we drove out of it, and we spent three days in the Ashland area touring, tasting wines and seeing some fun shows with our friend and former PSMC members Dennis Thompson and Joanne Hughes. If you are thinking about making the trip next year for the Explore Oregon run hosted by Willamette Valley Miata Club, you won't be disappointed. It's a great place to visit and tour.

If you missed the **Spot That Thing Tour**, then you really missed out on an opportunity. Near the end of the drive, we came across one of those yards that someone just hooked a "FREE" sign onto stuff they wanted to be rid of. This sign hung off an old Singer sewing machine in its own antique cabinet. When we drove past, I thought it would be a good idea to come back and give it a second look. So did five cars behind me, but AJ and Vickie McGranaghan "spotted that thing" and stopped to grab it! Of course, they couldn't fit the cabinet in their car, so they had to come back for it, and later they did. AJ reports that the cabinet was in pretty

good shape, so they plan to refinish it and repurpose it. The sewing machine doesn't work but it looks nice. You just never know what you might find on a Miata run! I've sent a photo for Tom to publish so you can see for yourself what a find they got.

I'm glad I'm living in Washington right now. I've been watching news from around the United States about fires, floods, drought, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes that have ravaged our beautiful country this summer. It's mind-boggling, which brings me to one event we host this month that allows all of us to do a little bit to help others in need. We will be asking participants at the 2011 Autumn Rallye on October 8 to contribute some canned food for the Maple Valley Food Bank. It turns out, according to feedingamerica.org, that one in six Americans goes hungry every day. You can do your part to alleviate the suffering of others while enjoying a day with your Miata club. It's definitely a win-win opportunity!

We'll be taking off again from Coop's Miata in Maple Valley starting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday October 8. (Directions are in an article elsewhere in the newsletter). This is one of the few events we host that does require a fee since it is the one and only fundraiser for the club. Cost is \$20 in advance (mail that with your registration form that you can print off from the website). Then enter an RSVP on the website too. Bill Cooper is putting together a terrific drive with some fun twists combined with a poker run. As usual, we will have PRIZES!

If any of you have ever done the Corn Maze Run, then you know this one promises to be a great time. We will be walking through two mazes in Kent that feature the mascots for UW and WSU, the Huskies and the Cougars. Some of you might be at the game that day, but if not, you may want to channel your favorite team with the walk through the mazes and a trivia challenge. The walking will be followed by

food at my home, which will feature beef stew. This is an afternoon/early evening event on October 1 and it leaves from Cedar River Park in Renton at 1:30 p.m., so please RSVP and join us for a fun afternoon.

*[Ed: It was everything Charlotte promised and more!]*

An event coming up for the third year is the Halloween Party, hosted by the Millars in Mill Creek last year and the Springers in Tacoma the first year. This year, it will be at the McGriffs in Renton on October 29. Please check the website for details and to RSVP.

I need to plug one more thing—we do have a board meeting coming up on November 5 at Mitzel's in Fife. We can show up at 11 a.m. for early lunch and we'll kick off the 2012 calendar planning session at about 11:45. The board meeting will follow at 1 p.m. If you are thinking of hosting a drive, please come so we can get it on the calendar. If you can't make it that day, then email me the name of your drive and the date you'd like to host it and I will calendar it for you. If you are thinking about hosting a drive but don't know how, then ask! Many folks over the years have completed drives and it's not that hard. Lots of people are glad to train, so don't be afraid to ask. We will follow anyone!

Until then, I hope you have a chance to drive some curves with the top down!

*-Charlotte*



**Some things were not only spotted, they were grabbed and taken home!**

## Editor's Message

By Tom Mackey

tom.mackey@gmail.com



It may take another iteration before we get this newsletter thing figured out, so I hope you will bear with us and remember to watch the web site for late breaking changes and additions. The web site is being revamped, too, it seems, as I noticed a few broken links here and there. By spring I hope to have the process of creating and distributing the newsletter under control, and merged with the process of updating the website so that the two agree, at least most of the time.

As I type this I am firmly in the clutches of a cold which reached out with its bony fingers and touched me early this morning – it must have had some seriously bad mojo because it came on quickly and by afternoon I was ready to leave work early, and so I did. Unless a miracle occurs, it looks like I will be burning a sick day tomorrow.

That brings me to thinking of health, happiness, and the joy we experience being around other people enjoying a common interest. Talking about the Puget Sound Miata Club sometimes brings blank stares from some of the people I work with. They seem to think that car clubs, maybe any clubs, are silly and so yesteryear.

You and I, however, know differently. In these troubling times, coming from diverse backgrounds and holding vastly differing opinions on every subject under the sun, the members of this club, on a regular basis, choose to put all that baggage behind and concentrate on just having fun and finding camaraderie pursuing our common interest of driving and enjoying the cutest two-seat rag-top ever to grace the twisting back roads of this planet. And in finding that common ground, we have all discovered that we have more in common with each other than it would first appear, and that, my friends, is the basis of civilization. Let not the thin veneer of civility wear away on our watch; instead let us slap on some more layers as we enjoy each others' company, share our food and drink, laugh, and zoom forward into the future and not dwelling on, nor forgetting the lessons of, the past.

On the next cold and sunny fall day, brush the falling leaves off your rag top, fold it back, fire up the heater, pull on some gloves and wrap your neck in a scarf, and go out and chirp the tires a few times. You know you want to! Oh, and think back fondly on all the good times you've enjoyed with the club this year, and dream about the ones you will have in the years ahead. -T



**Mindy sent me a few photos from a new member living in Italy. I do not know their name yet, but hope to soon. I would encourage that new member to write to me and tell their story! -Ed.**

### CHIEF OFFICERS

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Special Graphics	Mike Springer

## MEMBERSHIP

The club operates as a non-profit organization and relies primarily on volunteer services. However, sponsorship of events, the publication and mailing of the monthly newsletter and operating supplies constitute a financial burden that must be met by the membership. Make your Miata experience more enjoyable and join the club and participate. To keep the club meaningful and solvent, we need your support! Club membership is available by going to:

[www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org/misc/join.php](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org/misc/join.php) or by sending your name, address, and a check for \$30 (annual chapter dues) to:

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

Puget Sound Miata Club  
c/o Mindy Bohas  
12775 Deer Crest Dr. SW  
Port Orchard, WA 98367

If you would like to contribute an article or you took photos of an event you'd like to share, remember these guidelines:

- Send 3-5 of your best photos, not 20-30.
- Send us your j-pegs since we need to Photoshop them anyway.
- When sending news items, use one space at the end of sentences, not two. It saves space in the publication.
- Send all written materials in Arial and as attachments.
- The deadline is the 15 each month. Please observe it!

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

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

*Doug's Lynnwood Mazda (425) 774-3551*

*Mazda of Everett (425) 353-3403*

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

*Johnny Schauf at Milam Mazda of Puyallup (253) 845-1766 / Cost plus 20%*

*University Mazda of Seattle (206) 634-1191*

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