

Miata Sounder



The Oldest Miata Club in the United States

August 2011

Great Northwest Gathering of Miatas, 2011

August only means one thing in the PSMC: The Great Northwest Gathering of Miatas! This is an event that has been hosted by the PSMC Board ever since the club formed 21 years ago and this year is no different. All Miata owners from neighboring states and countries are cordially invited to attend this event to meet some old friends and make some new ones. Please join us!

This will be the second Gathering to be held at Griot's Garage, 3333 S. 38th St, Tacoma. You can check out their website at www.griotsgarage.com

Please **DO bring something to sit in or on, just like you would bring to a picnic! (ie: a folding chair or blanket)**. There is a large grassy area surrounding the covered picnic area where you could put a blanket and the covered area has room for a lot of portable chairs for the event if you choose.

Activities will commence at 10 a.m. and will feature a Show 'n Shine with Award Plaques given for the top three People's Choice favorites This year's event will also feature a Tech Workshop by a Griot's Garage expert and the chance to purchase car goodies and cleaning supplies you may need on site.

The club will provide a lunch of hamburgers, salad, baked beans, a sugar-laden dessert, and drinks. There will also be some great door prizes This event will not feature any games to play like we have done in other years, but it will provide a comfort-



able place to visit with new friends and reconnect with others that you may not have not seen in a while.

Plan to head on in to Tacoma for this annual celebration of the Miata! Please RSVP on the website so we

will have some idea of how many people to expect for food, handouts and door prizes and remember to check back on this page for any new last minute details.

Directions to Griot's Garage:

From I-5 take Exit 132. Get onto 38th St. and bear West and look for Griot's at about the 3rd light (large white building with red stripes which used to be the old Coca-Cola plant for those who remember it). Cross street is South Lawrence Street.

People's choice last year, Sounder editor this year. Karma? :-)



Mike, Tom, and Marilyn

When: Saturday, August 20th, from 10 to 2

Hosted by: PSMC BOD

Contact: Charlotte Fellers & Mike Springer

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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

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2011 Mt Baker - Friends Across the Border Ride

Hosts: Tom and Cindy Millar

When: Saturday August 6th, 7:00 a.m.

Where: Safeway parking lot, I-5 Exit 206

On the first Saturday in August, we are planning a joint trip with our Canadian friends from the Sea To Sky Miata Club. This is a delightful ride that starts up near Smokey Point and proceeds up the back roads to Glacier while our friends cross the border travel to our rendezvous location which will be at the Park Ranger Station.

This is a beautiful experience as the tour proceeds up to our stopping point on Mt. Baker. At this point there will be ample opportunity to exchange stories, trade secrets with our north of the border friends and provide multiple picture taking opportunities. Once we have had our fill of the Mountain we will travel back to Glacier where will eat lunch at Milano's Italian Restaurant which is wonderful.

After lunch we take the back roads home through

scenic areas like Lake Whatcom and Chuckanut Drive. You won't be disappointed, so please join us on this delightful ride!

Directions to Starting Point:

The meeting point will be in the Safeway parking lot, exit 206 off I-5, on the east side of the freeway, at 7:00 a.m. After a brief driver's meeting we will hit the road at approximately 7:15.



New Data Coordinator!

Hi, my name is Mindy, and I am the new club Data Coordinator. Please remember to inform me by email or phone if any of your contact information changes or if you suddenly stop getting the newsletter.

I will be starting on a new Club Directory soon. Our directory is only given to PSMC members in good standing. If you

do not want certain information published in the directory, or had incorrect info in the last directory, please let me know.

I am also looking for pictures to use in the directory. Please send your original full size pictures (no more than 3 at a time) to: fun4sun@wavecable.com Thanks!

Meet-n-Greet at Historic Pick-Quick Drive-In
4306 Pacific Highway E., Fife, WA 98424
Weds. Aug. 10, 6:00 PM

Hosts: Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson, phone 253-845-2424
e-mail ToadHallWA@yahoo.com

Shine up your Miata and join us as PSMC cruises in at the Pick Quick, a classic roadside food stand from the great days of the old US 99 Pacific Highway (Google the place and check the reviews.) Now totally surrounded by urban sprawl, it still features "slow food" like hamburgers, fries, and amazing milkshakes. Cash only! No alcohol. You order at the window, then eat at a picnic table under giant old trees (and birds.) There is no agenda or business or competition at a PSMC Eat-n-Greet! Just a group of cool cars and their humans getting together for fun.

Notes: Since this is a seasonal stand there are no



public restrooms; you'll have to take care of those duties at other nearby facilities. In

the unlikely event of rain we'll still meet at Pick Quick, but we can then re-group at some other local establishment with an interior. Directions for the GPS-challenged: From I-5 in Fife, take Exit 136 (Port of Tacoma Rd.) Go toward the port, then at the first traffic light beyond the freeway interchange turn right (east) on Pacific Highway northbound. Go 0.8 miles, and just past the Nissan dealer and the signal at Alexander Ave., Pick Quick will be on your right.

No RSVP necessary; "just do it."

FLUMERFELT FLING 2011

Hosts: Gayle & Keith Newsom

When: Saturday August 13th, 9:30 a.m.

Where: Olympia Farmers Market

Well, doesn't that take all! I (Keith) was sure I had written an article about this run and sent it to both the Sounder and the website. Nope. I can't find one anywhere, or any trace I might have sent it. Must have been last year's run. Sigh – you just can't get good help anymore.

In any case, on Saturday, August 13th we're leading the Flumerfelt Fling, based somewhat on the run we did several years ago. The format is the ever-popular drive-eat-drive, consisting of driving fun back roads, eating a great lunch at Mary McCrank's, driving some more fun back roads, and ending in Tumwater about 4 pm.

Come with your gas tank full. A good

place to buy is at the 76 station at I-5 exit 119 (DuPont-Steilacoom Rd.).

We'll meet in the lot on the east side of Olympia Farmers Market at the foot of Capitol Way, Olympia. The simplest way to get there from I-5 southbound is to take exit 105A onto 14th Avenue, go through the tunnel, turn right onto Capitol Way, go to the roundabout at the foot of Capitol, turn half-right, turn left into the lot, and look for Miatas. There are toilets at the market.

We want to depart at 10 am sharp. We'll monitor CB channel 10 for lost souls.

If you have any questions, hang onto them until we get back from Jolly Olde

England and Wales. We'll be back July 21st.

Gayle and Keith Newsom
(360) 943-8521

Editor's note: Its not the thing you fling, it's the fling itself — especially if it's a Flumerfelt Fling — whatever the heck that is! Join the fling to make your heart sing, you wild thing!



Introducing your PSMC Board of Directors, photo taken at the last quarterly election and general meeting. Back row, left to right: Sean McGriff, Charlotte Fellers, Mindy Bohnas, Mike Springer. Front row, left to right: Tom Millar, Tom Mackey, AJ McGranaghan, Tom Gores, Frank Shriver. If I got any names wrong, it is all my fault and I will rerun the photo with correct names next month. -T

Upcoming Events — Something for Everyone! (corrections, too)

August 2011

- 6 STSMC Friends Across The Border run to Mt. Baker. PSMC meet 7 AM at Safeway, exit 206 off I-5, east side of freeway. Host: Millar thomas.millar@yahoo.com
- 7 LeMay -- America's Car Museum 2011 Collector Car Showcase (judged show) 8AM, at Fife. Info: <http://www.lemaymuseum.org/>
- 10 PSMC Meet-n-Greet at Pick-Quick Drive-In, Fife. 6 PM. Hosts: Dee & Duncan ToadHallWA@yahoo.com
- 13 PSMC Flumerfelt Fling, Chehalis. Time: Saturday August 13th @ 9:00 a.m. Hosts: Gayle and Keith Newsom
- 20 PSMC Great Northwest Gathering. Host: PSMC Board editorcharlotte@gmail.com
- 27 PSMC Spot That Thing run, 10 AM. Host: Charlotte Fellers editorcharlotte@gmail.com
- 27 LeMay Family Collection 34th annual Open House, at Spanaway, 9AM. Info: <http://www.lemaymarymount.org/>

September 2011

- 4 PSMC Road Tour to "Come And Play On Labor Day" Parade, South Bend, Wash. Meet for breakfast in Centralia, 8 AM. Hosts: Dee & Duncan ToadHallWA@yahoo.com
- 9-10-11 PSMC Escape to Red Mountain wine tour. North Bend, 9AM. Hosts: Houghton, Jaegar, Millar. houghrl@comcast.net
- 17 PSMC Sunset Trail tour. Time/place TBD, Host: Ohlsens railtrail@hotmail.com
- 24 PSMC Leavenworth Autumn Leaf Festival parade (tentative). Time/place Host: Bill Bell arbill@hotmail.com

October 2011

- 1 PSMC Corn Maze Run IV, this time in the north end. Host Charlotte Fellers editorcharlotte@gmail.com
- 8 PSMC second Autumn Rally, location TBD, host PSMC Board editorcharlotte@gmail.com
- 10-11 PSMC Olympic Peninsula Lite tour. Time/place TBD. Hosts: Millars Millar-Thomas@aramark.com
- 29 PSMC Halloween Party, Renton. Hosts: McGriffs. psmhome@comcast.net
- 31 Bremerton Safe Trick-or-Treat, 5PM. Host: Mindy fun4sun@wavecable.com

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

Spot that thing Drive!

Host: Charlotte Fellers, editorcharlotte@gmail.com



August 27th @ 10:00 a.m., Old Cannery Furniture Store in Sumner

Do you like a good mystery? Well, this is the drive for you! Not only will you get to drop the top and enjoy a day of sunshine and driving through curvy roads in South King and North Pierce County, you'll get to figure out what "that thing" is along the way!

This drive was an idea hatched sometime several years back by one of our longtime members, Marilyn Huckleberry. She hosted a Spot That Thing drive that took us through some back roads around Snohomish and up into Monroe and Gold Bar. It was one of the very first drives I ever attended as a brand new Miata owner. It was a fun one, so I've stolen the idea from Marilyn (with her permission) and now it's calendared.

We'll leave the Old Cannery Furniture

Store after our Driver's Meeting at 10 a.m. on August 27. We'll quickly leave the small town of Sumner behind for some open country in the beautiful lush farmlands of King and Pierce Counties. I'll provide you with several photos of sights along the route and you will need to mark your mileage when you "spot that thing". At the end of the road, we'll wind up at the Four Corners Bar and Grill (tentatively) for a bite to eat and the awarding of valuable prizes to the winners. The whole drive should take about 3 to 3-1/2 hours, so you can go enjoy the afternoon doing something else.

I hope you find this drive as enjoyable as I did when I went on it several years ago. Please RSVP on the website at

www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org

Directions to The Old Cannery: From the South: Take I-5 North toward Seattle; Take Fife exit #137, to 54th Ave South; Go straight through light (cross street is 20th St. East). Road makes a sharp turn to left and turns into Valley Ave. Stay on Valley Avenue for approximately 6 miles. The Cannery is on the right side of the road just before the copper bridge.

From the North: Take 405 freeway south to 167 freeway south (Auburn and Puyallup)

After the Auburn/Pacific exits take the Sumner /Yakima Highway 410 East exit. Take the first Sumner exit (Traffic Avenue). At the end of the off ramp take a left at the light, past the car dealerships. At the double light, take the long left over the copper bridge and The Cannery is on the other side of the bridge on the left.

Sunday September 4:

Road Tour to "Come And Play On Labor Day" Parade South Bend, Wash.

Hosts: Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson, home phone 253-845-2424
or e-mail ToadHallWa@yahoo.com

Meet for breakfast at 8:00 AM at Country Cousin restaurant, 1054 Harrison Ave., Centralia, WA 98531 (Restaurant phone: 360.736.2200.) Take Exit 82 off I-5 (Harrison Ave. - the outlet malls exit,) go west about a block on Harrison, and Country Cousin is immediately on your right. Gas is available at this location but it is always super-expensive, so we suggest you fuel up in advance.

Leave on the road tour to South Bend promptly at 9:15



AM for a back roads cruise of about 75 miles, pieced together from our favorite segments from several past runs. We'll arrive in South Bend around noon, parade

starts 1:00 PM. If you and your sports car will be at the ocean beaches for the weekend, feel free to meet up with the rest of your club in the parade staging

area. **Correction: There will not be a fish fry after the parade this year.**

Hosts' cell phone 253-861-4554 if you need to contact us at breakfast or the parade. That's for day of event only; no coverage at our house.

Please RSVP on the club web calendar so we can give the restaurant a head count and tell the South Bend parade folks how many cars to expect.

PSMC Autumn Rallye helps club thrive

The Second Annual PSMC Autumn Rallye, which serves as the main fundraiser for the club, is already in the planning stages. Set for October 8, the rallye will once again feature the excitement and drama of a poker run coupled with an intriguing drive through the backroads and byways of South King County.

In its inaugural year, the rallye attendees donated nearly a dozen boxes of canned goods to the Maple Valley Food bank as one of our community service projects in conjunction with the rallye. We'll be doing this again this year.

Not only that, by mid-October, we should have a wonderful opportunity to experience our beautiful state in all its colorful fall glory. This rallye will take you through some fun backroads in South King County for a drive that we expect to take between two and 2 ½ hours to complete. Along the way, you'll be challenged by some interesting trivia questions along with the five



stops to draw a poker hand.

Cost for the rallye is \$20 (pre-registered, \$25 on day of event) per car, which includes your drive directions and trivia questions, two raffle tickets, one lunch ticket, and one commemorative gift of a glass with the logo for the rallye on it. We anticipate you will go on the drive and meet back at the start point for a hot dog lunch, awards to winners, and the raffle. Expect the chance to win some useful car

cleaning items as well as some other fun prizes that appeal to the taste buds.

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!

Drivers can check in and pick up their rallye directions, gifts, and tickets, plus purchase additional items beginning at **9:30 a.m.** This is not a timed rallye. We'll award prizes based on poker hand. We'll be announcing rallye winners at approximately 1:30 p.m.

As mentioned, we invite you to join us in bringing one can of food per person to contribute to the local food bank. If you prefer to donate cash, we'll have a donation jar for cash too. Keep up with new information about this drive at www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org

ESCAPE TO RED MOUNTAIN WINE TOUR

Fri Sept 9th - Sun Sept 11th 2011

Hosts: Ray and Elsje Houghton, Paul Jaeger and Tom and Cindy Millar

The pre-run has been completed and Tom, Paul, Cindy, Elsje and Ray have planned out the weekend. We will meet at the outlet mall in North Bend (Exit 31 Eastbound I-90) at 9:30am Friday Sept 9th. There are gas stations at this exit as well as Safeway so turn up with a full tank of gas. At ~10am after a drivers meeting we will head east on I-90. At Exit 109 we will take a break at the Conoco truck stop. We will then travel east again on I-90 then south on Hwy 243 (exit 137) just after crossing

the Columbia River. As we approach Mattawa we will turn on Road 22.5 SW. This will lead us to Ginko Forest Winery our first stop on the Wahluke Slope. This AVA has many vineyards in particular Milbrandt but only one tasting room at the winery we are visiting. For \$5 the owners will provide a BBQ hamburger and chips along with the wine tasting. You can also choose to pick up a lunch ahead of time. We will do a hamburger count and collect funds in North bend before we leave so we

can give advance warning to the winery.

Next we will head south on Hwy 243 and near the Hanford reservation turn onto Hwy 240 towards Richland. At this point in the pre-run Plutonium Ray (aka Flash Houghton) attempted a world land speed record in a Miata. "The extensively modified Miata was stripped of all unnecessary parts, cowlings and screws during this attempt" and completely lost sight

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Kiona Vineyard looking northwest. Red Mountain to the right, the Yakima River gap in the middle and Rattlesnake Mountain to the left.



of his co-hosts in the rear view mirror. "Flash" will be a special honored guest on this trip.....be sure you spend some time with him as he recounts the danger and excitement of his exploits. At

Hwy 225 we take a right heading towards Benton City. As we approach the town turn right onto Coral Creek Rd and head towards the small but friendly Sleeping Dog Winery (last ½ mile is gravel so drive slow).After our visit we head back to Hwy 225 and head south (right) to I-82 eastbound and then take the I-182 exit towards Richland. Take second George Washington exit and at the first light turn right into Columbia Point and then the Marriott Courtyard. We have reserved a block of 10 rooms at \$119+tax/night. Reservations for these rooms must be made before 8/9/2011. Marriott Phone (509)-942-9400. The rooms are reserved under the event name: "Puget Sound Miata Club Tour"

September 9th & 10th.This is a completely non smoking facility. The hotel has a Bistro and Anthony's is next door as well as other restaurant options within a mile radius.

On Saturday we will meet at ~11:15 am and after a drivers meeting leave for a tour of the Red Mountain AVA. Our first stop will be at Terra Blanca (no tasting fee) where you can purchase lunch at the bistro and relax and enjoy the surroundings. Depending on size of group we may be able to visit the cave. Next we will visit two other wineries Kiona (possible site for group car photo shot) and Hightower. We will then head back to the hotel and dinner will be at your restaurant of choice.

Afterwards we will gather to sip some of the vintages of the day and share experiences.

On Sunday we will leave around 11:30 am and head West on I-182 and I-82 and take exit #80 to Prosser where

there is a cluster of tasting rooms. We will end the tour at Milbrandt tasting room. They sell deli sandwiches or you can choose other food options available at this exit. The tour will end here and everyone is welcome to enjoy other tastings at their leisure before heading home on I-82 and I-90.

Please RSVP through the website or contact:

Ray/Elsje/Paul/Tom and Cindy

houghrl@comcast.net (Tel 425 483 6741)

couguy81@aol.com,

thomas.millar@yahoo.com

Saturday November 25th: Mall Prowl

Host: Charlotte Fellers, editorcharlotte@gmail.com

How would you like to put yourself into the holiday spirit while working off that inevitable food coma from Thanksgiving? If you aren't tied up with other commitments, join us for the Mall Prowl Drive on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. You can hit some of your favorite shopping haunts and finish purchasing those special gifts that you didn't have time to get on Friday between 4 and 8 a.m.

This drive is still under construction, but the plan is to start early with a 7 a.m. breakfast and drivers' meeting before we

set off for Bellevue Square and our first stop. The plan is to spend between 2 and 2 ½ hours at each stop, building in time for lunch. We hope to hit at least three major shopping areas throughout the day, giving everyone an opportunity to hit the sales and a little time to explore places you might never have stopped otherwise. We'll wrap up our trip with dinner at the beautiful Copper Falls Restaurant in Auburn, overlooking the Auburn Golf Course.

Although men are welcome to join us,

you might be happier just dropping in for the happy hour/dinner portion of our day. Copper Falls has a great happy hour from 4-6 daily, featuring typical pub food, and a full dinner menu. You will find the restaurant is cozy and welcoming, and they will be glad to see a congenial party like ours come through the door. You can learn more about Copper Falls on their website at:

www.copperfallsrestaurant.com

Please keep an eye on the PSMC website for more details.

Past Events

Joint Sea to Sky and PSMC Whistler Tour July 9 & 10, 2011 By Tom Millar



On an early Saturday morning, members of our own Puget Sound Miata Club met at Smokey Point to begin our journey north to beautiful British Columbia. This is the second year for this event and it has proven to be a winner. The weather gods blessed on this one, accentuating the spectacular scenery.



After a quick and uneventful boarder crossing at Lynden and a bit of travel along Canada Highway 1, we met up with our friends from the Sea to Sky Miata Club in North Vancouver. After a period of time to reacquaint and swap some stories, 22 Miatas departed the shopping center parking lot on our way north to Alice Lake. This is a beautiful Canadian Provincial Park that is situated along the way to Whistler. The stop afforded all of us the opportunity to do a little sightseeing along the lake's shore as well as rest up.

From Alice Lake we gathered once again on the highway as we continued our journey up to Whistler and Pemberton. Those of us who had not traveled this road were in for an "over the top" treat. This Canadian highway has undergone extensive improvement in preparation for the 2010 Winter Olympics. The scenery did not disappoint as we navigated our way up the mountain. This road offered plenty of twisty turns along the way. The Canadians enjoy a bit of speed and some of us had to work to keep up. It's a good thing we had "Plutonium Ray", aka "Flash Houghton", with us!

Our next stop was the town of Pemberton. This lovely little mountain town sits approximately 30 miles beyond Whistler. Our destination within the town of Pemberton was a local hangout that our Sea to Sky friends fondly described as a bit of a dive. While yes, it was a bit of a dive, we enjoyed some delicious food, and even better company, with our Canadian counterparts.

After lunch we said our farewells to the Sea to Sky Miata Club members and our group of nine Yanks proceeded back to Whistler. We all stayed at the Hilton Hotel in the Whistler Village and we strolled through the shops and had dinner at a local burger & brew. Yes, some of us had pictures taken amid the back drop of the Olympic "rings".



Following dinner we all made our way back to Paul Jaeger's suite where the nine of us sampled a wide selection of wines well into the evening.

The next morning our group of nine enjoyed a magnificent breakfast at the hotel prior to making our way south. Yes, the scenery was just as spectacular going down as it was coming up. There were several reports of bears in the area but we didn't notice any. Probably a good thing! Once we crossed in the United States we hit the gas station and filled our tanks with "cheap" American gas. Some of us traveled to a little local winery in the Bellingham area and enjoyed a glass of vino on the patio.

We enjoyed the company of our Canadian Sea to Sky Club members and consider them part of our extended family. Although we may give this ride a rest, we will be exploring a new ride that will reunite us once again next year.



Frank & Carol with Ray and Elsje

PSMC Does WVMC Explore Oregon 2011

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

Well, gang, we did the two lane black-top again. For the third year straight we got to Willamette Valley Miata Club's big "Explore Oregon" meet without ever venturing onto a freeway. Along with Emily & Larry Muir and Judy & Vicki Burr-Chellin we left Puyallup on Friday morning and motored little roads through Eatonville to Morton, where the sun appeared and all tops came down. Thence through Ethel and Toledo to Castle Rock, where Bob & Sally Thomas joined the tour with lunch at a little hole-in-the-wall called Hattie's. We crossed the Columbia at Longview and turned west a bit on US 30, then south on our newly-discovered Apiary Road toward Vernonia. A stop at Big Eddy County Park (a nice undiscovered place, right off SR 47) brought out some admiring school-age boys who declared our cars to be "really awesome." Out of



there we passed Forest Grove and Hillsboro, then zoomed through the hills on the super-twisty SR 219 to Newberg and Woodburn where we noted a major racing event at their drag strip. Finally it was an easy shot down through Mount Angel to Silverton where the presence of about 80 Miatas at the Oregon Garden Resort led us to believe "this must be the place." Other PSMC attendees included Fugitt/McKnight, McGranaghan, Holler, Fellers, and alumni Dennis Thompson & Joanie Hughes now of WVMC. Some of us dined at an atmospheric wine bar overhanging the river downtown, returning to the resort so late we missed dessert, although we got checked into the meet OK.



Saturday morning the rains came, but that failed to put a damper on activities. Everyone had a choice of multiple half-day road runs, but "Road Dancer" opted for the big all-day deal, complete with picnic lunch. Let us tell you, this was THE best package of roads we have EVER experienced in decades of rallies, tours, cruises and runs all over the country. The route was 189.5 miles total and at least 175 of that was corners: double-90s, squiggles, acutes, hairpins, reverse camber, decreasing radius, step-asides, chicanes, gear grinding hillclimbs, heart-stopping downhill plunges, and frequently no visibility ahead, exactly the stuff real sports car drivers live to experience. By a fortunate combination of geography and development, this area of Oregon was settled long before the automobile age, and when pavement became necessary they just adapted the old farm-to-market roads and logging roads. Thankfully, nobody has imposed too much modern engineering on top of them either, resulting in the best sports car country anywhere west of Vermont.

Somewhere in the morning segment a very old man tottered at the roadside, bracing himself against his rural mailbox, and lifting a gnarled hand in a small wave to every passing Miata. What memory flashback had we provided him? Seeing the Vanderbilt Cup Races in the 1930s? Racing his own MG at Pebble Beach in 1950? Or maybe he just appreciated class when he saw it on his own country road. You bet we waved back. Later on we met some nondescript lump sedan coming the other way and the driver had his arm out the window giving all

of our colorful pack of roadsters the thumbs-up. Ya gotta love it.

Amazingly the rains stopped every time we stopped, and lunch near Detroit Lake was lovely, as was the mid-afternoon break at Silver Creek Falls Park. It's worth taking the little hike to see the dramatic South Falls, although we opted not to try the Trail Of Ten Falls, which looked to be more of an endurance event. This weekend was also the big "Cycle Oregon" ride for bicyclists, but WVMC had managed to dodge most of their route. We did have to navigate around a few bikes heading back to the resort, but these were polite riders who would share the road, not the undisciplined mobs we've encountered when we've overlapped family-type rides in the past.

The banquet/party featured a presentation by local professor Steve Arndt, who writes a series of "Roads Less Traveled" books which document history and features found along Oregon byways that nobody would ever think to travel. A quick perusal of his books indicated that so far he has failed to discover any of our favorite "private roads" and make them known to the RV-driving public. As usual we didn't win anything in the poker or the drawings and the rainy drive home Sunday was an absolute boat race.

A final observation. The Miata is often described as an entry-level sports car, which is probably accurate to a degree, but really it is a precision instrument for carving your way down the world's most interesting roads, and the



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car rewards skilled use of its controls with a drama-free ride. Also, you can redline the engine, corner on the door

handles, and generally thrash the heck out of the little machine in Sports Motoring and it just doesn't care; it is always ready to be set free on another run. Next year "Explore Oregon"

moves to Ashland. Our navigator is already checking the atlas for a unique route to get there.

Update on electronic newsletters (See following article, reprinted from last month)

I've received a few comments since last month, and heard from Mindy regarding the "members only" section of the PSMC web site. Several folks like getting the printed copy to carry around with them, or because they would rather not, or can not, print it themselves. One comment was in favor of going all electronic immediately. Another wanted to access the newsletter in the members only section of the web site because they had no email access. (It turns out the members only section passwords have not been maintained.) These and other comments will be brought up at the next board meeting. Keep the comments coming, please. -T

Printing and mailing this newsletter costs \$\$

A discussion regarding the costs for printing and mailing club newsletters occurred during the recent quarterly PSMC meeting. A report from the treasurer showed that it costs the club around \$1.00 each to print and \$1.00 each to mail each copy of the newsletter. The overwhelming majority of the members choose to receive their newsletter electronically, which costs the club nothing.

Members present pointed out that each member choosing hard copy diverted close to \$18.00 of their dues towards print and postage, leaving only \$12.00 to go towards the other costs associated with running the club.

The BOD was ready to vote to eliminate hard copy newsletters, **but YrObdntSrvnt intervened**, stating that I did not want to lose members, and I would write something in the newsletter.

I encourage those of you still receiving hard copy to switch to electronic delivery if at all possible. If you cannot, please write or call me and let me know why you cannot; maybe we can find another way, especially if we can get the numbers low enough.

I would like to retain all our members. I would also like to go to 100% electronic delivery.

We are looking at charging members who request hard copy an additional fee. Please contact me with your thoughts and concerns.

Most respectfully,

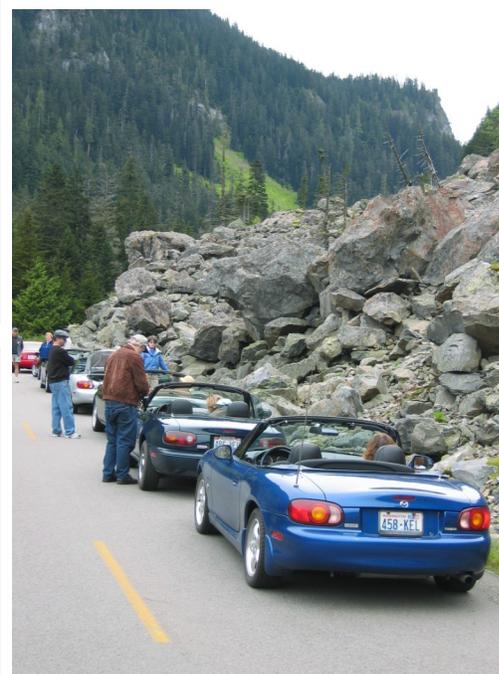
-T tom.mackey@gmail.com

206-276-9945

Sunset Trail Tour Teaser

Text and photos by Tom Mackey

If you have not taken the Sunset Trail Tour, you really owe it to yourself and your sweetie to sign up when more information is available. This "Best Miata Road in a Freeway Median" used to be the only way over the Cascades. We took the tour some years back and have been sharing it with



friends ever since. Last year some friends came out with us for the Rallye and afterwards we took them up to the most spectacular section of the old Sunset Trail. These pictures should give you some sense of the rugged and beautiful backdrop you can expect as you wind up and

over the pass. You would never know that Interstate 90 is actually on both sides of you. We hope to take this run again this year, and we hope you do as well. Being introduced to places like this is just one of the many benefits we have enjoyed by being members of the Puget Sound Miata Club. The best part, of course, is meeting all the great people who drive Miatas!

-T



Other Miatas In Other Places

The 10th Gathering of the Green is but a few short weeks away.
(9/15-18/2011)



Its time for a quick update for those who are registered to attend and to encourage those who are not yet certain about the ability to attend -- there is still time to register for a few remaining slots.

A few things to remember:

- **Hotel reservations** - to be made independent of registering for the GOG, so please contact the hotel with your room request.

Mountain Lodge – 42 McMurray Rd, Flat Rock, NC 28731 / [828-693-9910](tel:828-693-9910) / www.mountainlodgeflatrock.com

- It is recommended you bring your **CB radios or FRS walkie-talkie radios** for communication with the drive leaders while on the road.
- **Bring your cameras** - autumn colors in the high mountain elevations should be to show so coupled with the generally bright, September skies will hopefully, help everyone experience a vibrant color display.

You can find **information** about the event at www.miata.net where you can contact Joe Harrell with questions.

Additionally a **forum** <http://2011gog10.proboards.com/> is available for interaction with the administrator Joe Webster or other forum guests.

On the other hand, if you would like to **talk with someone in-person**, please contact Tom Kirkpatrick at [828-627-8034](tel:828-627-8034).

- It's nearly time for **BBQ, Bluegrass and BRG's** – 10th gathering in western NC. Event **registration deadline** is August 1st – use the attached registration form.

You might wish to reflect on this. The 1991 BRG is 20 years old and the Gathering of the Green celebrates the 10th get together. Both of these 2011 milestones are good reasons to come to western North Carolina for this, sure to be fun, gathering.

Familiar Faces

<i>Name</i>	<i>Car</i>	<i>Membership Yrs</i>
Alan Dahl	90 Mariner Blue	19
Dee Dahlke	99 Silver	13
Ron & Nancy Paquin	95 Black	1
Mike Crimmins	03 Strato Blue	7
Marylyn Ward & Jay Johnston	06 Sunlight Silver	5
Debra Roeder	01 BRG	2
Richard & Barbara Gates	96 Red	6
Daniel & Lynanne White	92 Sunburst Yellow	5
Gene & Ellie Wilson	05 Silver	16
Jeff Brash	95 White	2

Good to see you again!

Editor's Message

By Tom Mackey



Another month is almost in the bag. This year continues to scream by at an astounding pace. A broken microwave forced our hand and the new appliance part of our kitchen remodel is now complete.

We had planned on attending several Miata events this month before our vacation. Unfortunately, other commitments have conspired to make that impossible. We will especially miss the Mt Baker run; we've done it twice before and always had a great time. We highly recommend it and encourage you to participate. And we leave the day before the Gathering; once again, an event we have greatly enjoyed on many occasions.

The next newsletter is due while we are gone, so I will be traveling with laptop; gmail is my friend!

Thanks to the event hosts who continue to do an amazing job with pre- and post-event write-ups — these make the editors' job so much easier.

I have a personal plea to event hosts. If at all possible, publish a cell phone voice or text number (specify either or both) so folks can contact you should they RSVP and then have to cancel the day of the run, as happened to us for the Crystal Mountain run. Thanks!

Until next month, keep the sun out of your eyes, the rain out of your cockpit, and flashers out of your rearview mirror! -T

New Faces

<i>Name</i>	<i>Car</i>
Frederick Carr	91 BRG
Richard Newton	
Bob Martin	

Please join us for a run real soon!

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outdoor seating (in case we ever get a nice day).

I didn't get to go on Keith and Gayle Newsom's drive last summer, but they've dreamed up a new one for this summer, called the Flumerfelt Fling. I just checked the dictionary because I don't know what a "flummerfelt" is, and guess what? It's not in the dictionary! I do know this drive is a day-long event starting at 10 a.m. August 13 in Olympia. It follows the Miata driver's favorite pattern: drive-eat-drive-eat. Who wouldn't want to go on a drive like that? You can RSVP on the website.

We have friends everywhere in this club. On August 6, we'll team up with the Sea to Sky Club from Vancouver, B.C. , to do our annual team run to Mt. Baker. The views are breathtaking and the roads are curva-licious, so get up early and head to the Safeway off exit 206 at 7 a.m. on August 6 to join in the fun. They usually stop at this great little Italian restaurant for lunch on the way down (the name of it escapes me at the moment) and the food there is fabulous. Notice that this is another drive-eat-drive trip, so sign up on the website.

And me, I'm getting better at planning drives, so I've gone out on a limb to host another Spot That Thing drive on August 27 at 10 a.m. It's another drive-eat kind of run, but there's a twist. As you maneuver the roads, you'll be looking for a series of scenes along the way (well, of course they'll be all mixed up). I'm not sure about how the prizes will be given out, but there will be some, so if you have a good navigator, this would be a good time to enlist their help. This one starts at one of our favorite starting points in the south end, the Old Cannery Furniture Store in Sumner. There's a great coffee stand there and some clean restrooms as well, so you can get off on the right foot. This drive will end with lunch so it won't take up your whole day.

Check out the other drives we have scheduled for this month and also in September. These are the glory days for us Miata drivers, when the sun is (hopefully) out and we can drop those tops!

President's Message Aug 2011

Did you attend the Great Northwest Gathering in Tacoma last year? If you didn't, you need plan on attending this year's event on August 20. The event is hosted by the PSMC Board and there is no fee to attend. Thanks to Griot's Garage, we have a wonderful venue to bring our Miata friends together for some relaxing and fun activities. The buzz last year was over the gift packs we gave away, which included wine and chocolate, a picnic basket, a movie pack, some great gifts donated by Mazda International, and other fun prizes. And it's all free just for showing up. Did I mention lunch? We're planning to serve burgers and a fresh salad plus baked beans along with some sugary desserts. Check elsewhere in this newsletter for other details.



Don't you love rain? You must or you wouldn't be living in Washington! That's what my relatives told me when I visited New Mexico in July to attend a family reunion. Wouldn't you know, we had two days of great sunny weather here in the Puget Sound, while we got rain and hail—yes hail!—for two days in New Mexico. I just can't seem to catch a break with the weather! We had a great time at the reunion, with around 40 of my family members in attendance. The big hailstorm hit while we were trying to take a horseback ride. What timing! I'm already looking forward to the next one in two years. In case you are wondering, while we were there, they evacuated Los Alamos (about 100 miles away from Red River, where we were staying) but let everyone back home since the rain helped put out the raging inferno that was the national forest outside of Los Alamos. It was heartbreaking to drive through the area around Raton, where the once lush hillsides are completely burned out from fires last year. One of our activities was cancelled due to closure of the Kit Carson National Forest, and we could not even light charcoal for our hamburger cookout. Thankfully, the fires are backing off now.

As I write this, I am packing my car for the annual Explore Oregon adventure. This year's event is going to be based in Salem and is hosted by the Willamette Valley Miata Club, our friends to the south. I'm looking forward to seeing some friends from last year and will be enjoying some free time with a few other member of the PSMC who are joining in the fun. This weekend of events always showcases some of Oregon's best roads, good food, and some cool door prizes.

Another great August activity includes our annual trek to the Fife Pick-Quick Drive-In. Usually this proves to be a great time to sit outside and have a delicious, thick milkshake with your custom-made burger. You can't beat the old-timey feel of the Fife Pick-Quick. If you haven't been to the new location in Auburn, you should give it a try too. They have the same menu but in a new building designed to look "retro" but it also has lots of parking and

(Continued on page 12)



CHIEF OFFICERS

Operating Executive	Charlotte Fellers
Communications	Mike Springer
Financial	A.J. McGranaghan
	Sean McGriff

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Tom Mackey	Tommy Gores
Frank Shriver	Allan Ohlsen
Vickie Olsen	Mindy Bohnas
Tom Millar	LeRoy Burgess

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Data Coordinator	Mindy Bohnas
Parade Coordinator	Open
Sounder Editor	Tom Mackey
Webmaster	Nathan Allan
Assistant Webmaster	Mindy Bohnas
Autocross Representative	Dieter Beldi
Specialty Web Programmer	John Young
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 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

You may notice that the Sounder looks a little different this month. We have decided to migrate away from Adobe Pagemaker for our newsletter designing and to Microsoft Publisher. Because Adobe no longer supports Pagemaker, we have had re-occurring problems with the software that we can no longer address. We think Publisher will continue to be supported in years to come and no matter who is the newsletter editor, they will have an easier time of using it since it interfaces well with other Office Suite programs.

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