

MIATA SOUNDER



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

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Miatacross 2006

Sunday, July 30, 2006

Everett Boeing Plant,
West Parking Lot



Join us for another exciting day with your Miata. It is a great way to get to know your Miata and get to know so many other people that enjoy their cars almost as much as we enjoy ours. Autocross is not only for the "racer" types; many people from different backgrounds, with different types of cars, join together and have a blast on these courses. Maneuvering through the cones really gets you in touch with your car. What a great way to have some clean, family fun! Bring the whole family; it's the perfect way to educate your children on the right way to control a car. There really is no better place!

Miatacross is one in a series of championship autocross events held every year under the Western Washington Sports Car Council (WWSCC). The points earned by every participant in each event go to their championship totals. At the end of the competition year, the WWSCC hands out awards based on the point standings. Also, many of the participants travel to Topeka, Kansas in early September for the National Championships! So, you can see how important it is that we host a professional and well-organized event.

This event does not run itself though. We need your help. Please volunteer for this year's Miatacross. You don't have to have autocross experience to help. Some jobs are as simple as manning the gate to have all entrants sign the waiver to helping out with registration. Please contact Sean McGriff by either phone (425.430.0255) or email (psmhome@juno.com) and we will find the right job for you.

The Gathering '06

Sunday, August 27, 2006

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Coop's Miata, Maple Valley

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

Hosted by your PSMC Board

Are you all ready for some summertime Miata fun? I can't think of a better summer activity than attending PSMC's annual Gathering. This event has been a PSMC annual tradition for the past fifteen years! This event has lasted so long for one reason and one reason only: it is a load of fun, pure and simple. Although not a driving event, it is a terrific event to catch-up with friends, enjoy good food and participate in all sorts of Miata Events and Games. And once again, Coop has been gracious enough to offer his place to "gather."

Members who attended last year will all remember trying to frantically pack their trunks for time in the Trunk Stuffing Game. Also, who could forget trying to park in the garage while blindfolded? What's that you say? Socializing and games are not enough for you? You drive a hard bargain but ok, how about a full lunch with all sorts of dishes and desserts? We will once again be using Armadillo Catering to serve up our delicious lunch this year.

Still not enough? Alright, I know you all like to show off your beautiful roadsters right? How about a Concours d' Elegance? That's right folks, we will be having a judged car show for all of our gleaming beauties! There will be several categories so you are sure to find a place perfect for your Miata. In addition to awards being handed out for the Car Show, we will also

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July Parades

More info at www.ps-miata.org

July 4 Kingston Fourth of July Parade @ 10:00 AM

July 8 Mercer Island Parade – TBA

July 23 China Town Parade @ 3:00 PM





MIATA SOUNDER

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PUBLISHING

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

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

Send your submissions to:

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ps-miata.org

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

upcoming events

Lights, Camera, Miata!

Saturday, July 8, 2006 @ 7:00 PM
 Kingsgate Park & Ride, Totem Lake



Hosted by Andrew & Dustin Locke

Are you ready for your close-up? On July 8th Andrew and I will be leading the 1st Annual PSMC "Lights, Camera, Miatas Run." This run will take us along some of the Puget Sound's most beautiful back roads and lake front roads. After the run we will head towards the Auburn Valley-Six Drive-In movie theater for a double feature. We will have a group vote as to which movie we will see at the Driver's Meeting. As of now, 'Cars' is playing and we are keeping our fingers crossed that it will still be there on the 8th. Please see below for a list of our current choices. Admission is seven dollars for adults and seniors are four dollars. The show time will be at approximately 9:30. You may want to bring folding chairs of some kind. In the past, Andrew & I have lead Drive-In Miata Runs and sitting through a movie or two in a Miata might not be the most comfortable thing for some folks.

We will be meeting at 6:30pm at the Kingsgate Park & Ride off of the 124th Street Exit of I-405 in Totem Lake. We will be departing the parking lot right around 7:00. We hope to see you all there!

[Our current choices: 1. "Cars" playing with "Eight Below" 2. "Lake House" playing with "The DaVinci Code" 3. "Fast & The Furious Part III" playing with "The Break-Up" 4. "The Omen" playing with "X-Men III" and 5. "Nacho Libre" playing with "Mission Impossible III"]

Directions to the Park & Ride:

From the North: Take I-405 South to the 124th exit; take a right off the exit, make immediate right on 116th; Park & Ride will be on your left about 1/2 mile.

From the South: Take I-405 North to the 124th exit; bear left; at the signal, turn left, going west over the freeway, then take right on 116th; the Park and Ride will be on your left about 1/2 mile.

Miatas do LaConner

Bring your own Blanket

Saturday, July 22, 2006 @ 9:30 AM

Mill Creek Safeway, Bothell-Everett Hwy



Hosted by Tom Mackey & Marilyn Huckleberry

Join us for a day of cruising the scenic and twisty backroads as we zig and zag from Mill Creek to La Conner by way (possibly) of an old fashioned diner dedicated to the automobile, a dessert potluck and finishing with a grand arrival in La Conner. You can end your day strolling the streets, shopping and optionally join us for dinner at our favorite water front tavern.

We will be meeting at the Mill Creek Safeway located on the Bothell Everett Hwy & 132nd St. SE at 9:30 AM. Bring a light snack, fruit, dessert dish or cool drink TO SHARE. Enjoy a lazy, hazy, crazy day of summer!

Directions:

From I-5, north or south, take the 128th St. exit; go east to the Bothell Everett Hwy (Hwy 527); right turn onto Hwy 527, going towards Mill Creek; right turn into Safeway.

From I-405, take the Bothell Everett Hwy exit (Hwy 527), going towards Everett/Mill Creek; stay on Hwy 527 for about 6 miles; left turn into Safeway

upcoming events

Central Oregon Covered Bridges & Pinot Noir

July 27 - 30, 2006; 8:45 AM @ Sheri's Parking Lot, exit 109 on I-5 So.

By Houghton & Jaeger/Hayes

Although the RSVP deadline has passed, you are still welcomed to join in the Central Oregon Wine tour. However, as all the rooms for the Best Western Dallas Inn and Suites are booked, you will be on your own regarding hotel reservations.



Photo by Ray Houghton

For those of you who already have your rooms booked and your RSVPs in, **please make sure you contact Raymond & Elsie Houghton (425.483.6741 or email Raymond.Houghton@verizon.net) or Paul Jaeger/Dawn Hayes (425.349.1729 or email Cougguy81@aol.com); they need to know your choice for Saturday's dinner: Chicken Cordon Bleu (\$11.99); Marionberry Salmon (\$13.50); Halibut Olympia (\$16.95); or Prime Rib (\$16.95).** Also, your hosts are signing up for the 9:30 AM Sunday Brunch at the Eola Hills Winery. If you care to join us, be sure to make your reservations with the winery by contacting them at 503-623-2405 or check out www.eolahillswinery.com. This event fills up quickly so you should make your reservations as soon as possible.

We will be meeting at 8:45am July 27th at the Shari's parking lot located at the Sleater-Kinney Martin Way exit 109 on I-5 south. Plan on bringing a picnic lunch. After a short drivers's meeting, we plan to be on the road by 9:15am. Check the website for additional tour information. Hope to see you there!

Run Around the Bases II, Double Play

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

Hosted by Dennis Thompson & Joanie Hughes

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

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

Directions to Cheney Stadium:

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

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

West Lewis County Historic FUN RUN

Saturday, July 29, 2006 @ 9:30 AM

Rick's Place at Exit 59, I-5 South (WA 506)

Hosted by Rick & Sue Wilson

Meet at 9:30, exit 59, I-5 South, WA-506 West, Vader exit just south of Winlock at Rick's Place parking lot. Rick will have coffee on for all.



Pull out at 10:30 for Boisfort Hi-way, through beautiful Boisfort Valley to Lost Valley to historic Pe-Ell. After break, proceed on to Rainbow Falls State Park, then on to historic Adna and Claquato Pioneer Church and Cemetery (car photo shoot). Then on to Sowerby's British Cuisine at 227 SW Riverside Dr. in Chehalis to end the run.

Approximate run time is 4 hours; with lunch it is a 6 hour event. Traffic for this event will be light.

NOTE: Restaurant is next to I-5 at exit 77.

Questions? Contact Rick or Sue Wilson at (360) 748-1150. Please RSVP via the website (www.ps-miata.org/events/2006_west_lewis_county.php) so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect.

Ed. Note: The info on **RETURN TO TOFINO** will return next month. In the meantime, check out this cool event on the website at www.ps-miata.org. And for heaven's sake, get off your duff and make your reservations! The rooms go fast!



event aftermath

Is it Your Turn Yet?

Part II in the Search For Madonna: On to the Madonna Inn

By Cindy Smith

One thing nice about caravanning with Andrew and Dustin is that you don't have to worry about getting up at the crack of dawn. Therefore, on Day Three of our **SEARCH FOR MADONNA**, Stephanie and I got to sleep in. We were also soon to experience all the hoopla we had heard about driving on the infamous Hwy 1. Of course, at first, when leaving Capitola and finding Hwy 1 freeway, I was a bit disillusioned. That feeling would quickly dissipate, though, south of Carmel.

For the drive down to San Luis Obispo, our small caravan was joined by a local Miataophile: an ex-autocrosser in a '93 white by the name of Debbie. After grabbing some yummy pastries at Gayle's Bakery (well, there went the resolve to stick with the diet while on vacation!), we headed South for Monterey and 17-Mile Drive, a picturesque drive through the homes and golf course of Pebble Beach ("Wave to George Lazor, Stephanie; his ashes were scattered in Monterey Bay."). South of Monterey, south of Carmel (and just where is that former mayor with-no-name when you are doing your best to lookie-loo while driving?), Hwy 1 finally became the highway I had been reading about: awesome scenery and twisty and turnys that wouldn't stop. I didn't know what I wanted to do worse: keep up with Dustin and Andrew and Debbie, or slow down and gawk at the scenery. That decision was taken out of my hands when the "RENT ME" RV pulled out in front of me. The guy did a whopping 25 mph on what little straight stretches there were; I don't think my speedometer even registered the speed in which he took the corners. At least it gave Stephanie's knuckles a chance to relax and get the color back in them. It also gave us the chance to pull out and take a picture or two.



Believe it or not, this picture of the Big Sur area was taken by Stephanie as we zoomed down Hwy 1!

About 15 miles down the road, we ran into Debbie at an old fashion rest area (it's called a wayside inn with a public restroom). She had tried to wave Dustin over but he was having way too much fun on the curves, especially since he had an open road in front of him. Besides, he was excited and anxious to meet up with all of his old friends and family from the San Diego Miata club. No worries, though. Andrew had made sure we had directions to the Madonna Inn, and when it was all

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said and done, we arrived only 15 minutes later than they did.

Stephanie, though, was still a little concerned that we wouldn't be able to find the place. However, it turned out to be a no-brainer. Even if we had not have had Debbie leading the way, there is no way you can miss the Madonna Inn once you get on I-101 South. Not only does it have its own exit (Madonna Road), which dumps right into the parking lot, you just can't miss it sitting there along side the freeway. It's huge! And a bit garish. Of course we would soon discover that the outside of the inn paled in comparison to the "uniquely decorated" rooms. And for the life of me I don't know why Stephanie didn't take any pictures as we entered the grounds – especially given that the camera had not stopped clicking since we had left Washington. Maybe it was the fact she was hungry or maybe it was the fact that she was blown away with the sight of 30-plus Miatas of all shapes, colors, and sizes sitting in the parking lot.

As we found a parking slot with the group to slide into, Andrew and Dustin appeared out of nowhere. Again, they took their roles as "Hosts with the Most" seriously and made sure the "newbies" to this event would not be left out in the cold – even if we were the last ones to arrive. We were graciously chaperoned to the PINKEST dining room I ever had the privilege of gracing, where they and Dustin's folks had saved us seats in a very large PINK booth. And while I felt awashed in a Pepto-Bismol commercial, the food was good.

After lunch we had a few hours to check into our hotel rooms, wash off the road grime and unwind before heading out for the evening tour at nearby Hearst Castle. Our room, by Madonna Inn standards, was pretty normal – that is for a three-bedroom, two-bath suite with a gigantic rock fireplace in the middle of the living area. And if gaudy, floral wallpaper is not your forte, than this really isn't a place you would want to stay.

Day Three was winding down and there still had not been a peep from my co-pilot about wanting to drive. Apparently, as she later informed me, she wanted to make sure that I got my share of driving time since this was the first Miata event in a long while that I actually got to drive. And since it had been all freeway the first two days of our trip, she thought it only fair that once we hit Hwy 1, I would be first to enjoy the thrill of driving the kind of roads that the Miata was built for. Besides, she was enjoying just sitting back and taking in all the scenery and new locales; she was actually digging being a "lookie-loo." <GASP> My daughter is growing up!

But that was soon to change. I mean, after all, what is a Miata event without an organized run to a given destination? It was time to share the fun.

Trial by fire. That's what it was. Our hosts had a nice run mapped out to Cambria, where we were to have dinner before touring the Hearst Castle, and I felt it was time for Stephanie to do some driving. Problem was, she had only driven on one other Miata event before and it wasn't in the MazdaSpeed. She was a bit nervous but game and took my advice by trying to get in the back of the group. But you know Miata folk. The SDMC were not going to treat their out-of-state guest by putting them in the back of the bus, so Stephanie got waved in somewhere towards the middle. Her first big surprise was when she shifted

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the MazdaSpeed like she does her Integra and the Mazda Speed leapt into “warp speed,” as I like to call it. That brought a shit-eating grin on her face, let me tell you. The second surprise was how well she was able to keep up with the group (“Man, this car corners nice!”) and how patient and kind everyone was when she couldn’t. Not a bad word was to be said nor a frown to be had by any SDMC member. In fact, when a lady by the name of Diane came up and told her how much fun it looked like she was having and how well she was doing, Stephanie just beamed. She had been so afraid of ruining someone’s drive by her lack of experience, but everyone was just there to have fun – just like her.



Stephanie made taking pictures from the car look easy; before I got this snapshot of our run to Hearst Castle (complete with smashed bug on windshield), I took one of the clouds and another of the visor. Photo by Cindy Smith.

Hearst Castle by night was amazing. I did feel sorry for those few folks who were NOT with the “Merry Band of Miata Folk.” By the time the evening was over, I knew that whatever the Madonna Inn Room Tour the following night threw at us, nothing was going to compare with the pretentiousness of the Hearst Castle. Flamboyant. Grandiose. Ostentatious. Words used by our tour guide to describe the Castle and all short of the mark. It is amazing what some people do with their money, but one thing Stephanie and I both agreed on: we would love to go back and take the Castle’s Art Tour.



Of course you know all the riff-raff, including Dustin & Andrew Locke, sat in the back of the bus. Some things we never outgrow. Photo by Stephanie Smith.

It had been a long day; time to go “home” for the night and get a good night’s sleep. We were going to need it.

NEXT MONTH: SHARP, SHARP! SHARP LEFT! SHARP RIGHT! BRAKE, BRAKE! M-O-O-O-M BRAKE! Or “Gee Bruce, I love what you’ve done with your robe!”

OVMC’s Topless Sun Run ‘06

Reported by Dee Dalke and Duncan Johnson (‘99 Silver “Road Dancer”)

This was one spectacular club event. In a nutshell, it stretched over three days (our own trip added three more), with 143 Miatas participating, dating from brand new back to the first-year Miata from 1990 (one ‘90 with its original owner.) The cars were accompanied by 258 people, ranging from age 23 to 78, and from as far away as Ontario. Well, one entry was from Switzerland, but they didn’t bring their Miata.

The PSMC contingent included Maury Fugitt & Sandy McKnight (road tour commanders,) Fred & Sandi Holler, Dennis Thompson & Joanie Hughes, Fred & Bev Rudd, Jim Hightchew, Stanley & Gretchen Liebenberg, Fred Staatz, Bruce Donner & Judy Templeton, and your reporters Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson. Most of us started from Monroe on Thursday afternoon, where Maury & Sandy presented us with small soft-side coolers with water, fruit, candy, etc. to sustain us on the road. What a nice touch! We began with a shot over Stevens Pass on US 2, in and out of rain showers, which would be the weather for a while. There was plentiful roadside snow at the summit, with waterfalls of snowmelt on the east side. Approaching Leavenworth through Tumwater Canyon the Wentachee River was high, fast, and boiling with violent turbulence. No place for our canoe! We refueled at Starbucks’ and pressed on through Wenatchee and up the east side of the Columbia River on US 97 with a rest stop at the beautiful Beebe Bridge Park (good picnic site on a future cruise) and a final run to Pateros where we stayed at the Lake Pateros Inn and dined at a tasty hole-in-the-wall Mexican restaurant. The river was high here, too, and there was so much floating forest debris washing along that it looked like kelp beds.

First Friday morning activity was to investigate the Pateros local bakery, which made a tasty breakfast. Then Sandy presented us with goodie bags; little canvas sacks with the club emblem, and filled with necessities such as sun-block and bug repellent. We cruised up US 97 to Tonasket, thence east on SR 20 to Wauconda, where we took Toroda Creek Road (good one!) for the remainder of the border run. This is the high country, hardly developed since pioneer days, with a notable number of original log buildings still in use. The actual border crossing was leisurely, at the sleepy hamlet of Midway, B.C. Well, for one thing, in the middle of the road to the customs gate sat a local kitten, chowing down on a fresh-caught snake. “I went to all the trouble of catching this thing; you guys are just going to have to go around me.” She was not to be the only wildlife sighting of the day. Later we encountered a coyote, a moose, and a bear. At least some folks in the front of the pack claimed to see them. Anyhow, the Canada Customs inspector was propped up on a chair, holding open the screen door to his little shack. He made the usual enquiries, but apparently did not suspect us of being a pack of terrorists, so into Canada we went.

Now our route went west, then north on highway 33 to a lunch stop in Beaverdell. This is a semi-ghost town, but it has the ancient Beaverdell Hotel, a little wooden structure still stuck in the

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late 1800s days of logging and mining and railroads, and wonderfully so. The main floor is a tavern/inn and the lone barmaid rose to the occasion, serving up a lot of excellent lunches in short order, and with good spirit. Here we also met more Miatas, rolling in from Alberta after a side trip to the Grand Canyon. Yes, THAT Grand Canyon, the one in Arizona. Not exactly in between Alberta and British Columbia last time we checked, but another fine example that “there are no wrong turns in a Miata.” Following lunch, we motored north and west to Kelowna past the Big White ski area, and through some seriously forested and mountainous countryside. Lovely in the springtime all the way into Kelowna, a moderate size full-service city on Okanagan Lake (which is long and narrow and looks like a river,) all with a backdrop of more mountains.

OK, gang this is it. Pull into the Best Western and drive right to the registration tent, where we picked up credentials and information packet, and had our arrival pictures taken. The host club



Dee & Duncan at the Top Less Sun Run Registration. Photo taken by OVMC.

had set up a four-stall car washing area, complete with hose, buckets, car wash soap, mitts, sponges, towels, the whole nine yards. Nice feature and of course everyone took advantage of it, having been in and out of Mother Nature’s Touchless Car Wash for two days. This led into the “Miata Mingle” as sports cars and humans all got acquainted right there in the reserved parking lot, our version of the rod-n-kustom folks’ cruise-in car shows, just minus the judging and trophies. Since all three generations of Miatas were present, and in both US-spec and Canadian-spec versions, all their perceived merits and demerits were debated at length by everybody. Reminded this reporter of debates about other sports cars which had evolved while keeping the same “soul,” such as the MG TC, TD, and TF, the Jaguar XK-120, 140, and 150, and the Porsche 356A, 356B, and 356C. The later models are always technically “better,” but somehow the original is always “purer.” At least no fights broke out! What goes around... Soon the first road event started up, locally known as the Knox Mountain Hillclimb, in which we zoomed to the top of that local landmark, while seeing much of the Kelowna area coming and going, and reaching the conclusion that the beautiful homes in some neighborhoods bespeak significant accumulated wealth. As we cruised through olde towne Kelowna centre some street corner vagrant shouted, “Girlie cars!” Dee yelled back in reply, her golden curls tossing

Topless continued next column

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in the wind, “And your point WAS!?” Back at the hotel, we enjoyed the rest of the evening making new friends in a free wine and cheese reception at the hotel atrium.

Saturday morning we consumed our free breakfast buffet at the hotel, then all mustered under drippy skies for the day-long tour, which involved all 140-plus Miatas. OVMC had devised a route through the two unavoidable city traffic lights (one involving a left turn) and they had us all snaking through the adjacent shopping center parking lot, and feeding into traffic in batches, while the lead cars just crept along the highway a couple of miles ahead. It worked better than we thought it ever could, and soon the whole Miata train was zooming out of town on the aforementioned highway 33. Well, there were a few OTM (Other Than Miata) interlopers, who just couldn’t wait for us to pass. One was a putrid diesel truck, and if he was running bio-diesel fuel, we are glad we didn’t eat the fish-n-chips that were previously fried in his oil. Retch. After 113 km there was a rest stop at a roadside park (ahhhhhhhh!) and the sun came out fully and the rest of the tops came down. We zoomed back through Beaverdell to Rock Creek, then west to Osoyoos (an Indian word meaning “land of foul smelling diesels”) thence north through Oliver, the wine capital of British Columbia. Hmm, maybe we should make a future wine run here. How do you get Canadian wine through U.S. customs? Curiously, the tour leader waved us off from a planned side trip on some back roads and we went straight to lunch at Okanagan Falls.

Lunch. Oh, wow. The Miatas filled the field behind the Royal Canadian Legion hall and all the on-street parking around the village green. What a photo-op. The Legion ladies were serving up roast beef sandwiches with all the trimmings, potato salad, strawberry shortcake, et al. Then we each had a ticket for a two-scooper ice cream cone at Tickleberry’s ice cream shoppe and junque emporium across the street. Like lunch, it was free to participants. Is this tough to take or what? After lunch we had a choice of three road events: a direct run back to the hotel, a short back road cruise, or a long back road run. Naturally we took the long event; we came to drive. We reversed part of the morning route and took the turnoff which had been denied us before lunch. Then we went into the back country, and even passed a huge radio observatory with banks of dish antennas pointed skyward in search of radio signals from extra-terrestrial life forms. Impressive to this old rocket scientist. As we zoomed deeper into the tooleydinks, the tour separated itself into the fast canyon runners in the front and the more mellow cruisers in the back, which left us leading the second group, deep in some other country and clueless as to where we were going! Ah, but once radio contact with the leader faded, every time we came to an intersection we simply chose the road that looked like the most fun for a Miata, and from time to time we’d catch up to the first group. Amazing how that old sixth sense works! The roads to mark on your map are Green Mountain Road and Apex Road, between about Olalla and Penticton. We suggest not stopping where the sign says, “Beware of bears in this dump.”

Returning to the hotel for the evening, we partook of no-host happy hour and then proceeded into a full-featured buffet style roast turkey dinner sponsored by Mazda Canada. There were door prizes (or “draw prizes” in the local vernacular) galore and

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autocross

Here, There and Every-where

By Denise Williamson

Where would you like to autocross? Here? There? Both were available in May and June. First up was the first WWSCC championship event of 2006, "Dawg Dash", held May 14 in Everett. The weather was quite nice for the six PSMC members who attended. Glen Hernandez and Alan Dahl ran in the Pro1 class. Glen won a fourth place trophy in a DS BMW 330ci, and Alan took eighth in his "Winning Blue" 2006 CS MX-5. The most popular class for PSMC drivers was again Open Street. Dieter Beldi won a first place trophy, and Brett Wilson won a second place trophy (.447 from Dieter). Bob Bundy took sixth place (.734 from Brett), and Enrique Garcia took ninth place (2.032 from Bob) after becoming friendly with cones and gates. Kudos for this event go to Dieter Beldi and Brett Wilson, who had the first and second top unindexed times of the day. Woohoo!



The last Northwest Region SCCA event in May dawned. well, actually I don't know how it dawned, because I wasn't here (more on that to follow). I heard that it rained. Anyway, SCCA #3 was held on May 28 in Bremerton. This time, there were five PSMC entrants. In Street Mod 2, Dieter Beldi won a first place trophy. Brett Wilson took third place, and Rickey Carlson took 6th place. Tim Irwin won a seventh place trophy in the large Street Tire class, and Alan Dahl took 15th in a large Open PAX class. Dieter also was the second fastest top unindexed time of the day.

May 28th was also the fourth championship event of the Pan American Region SCCA, held in El Paso, Texas. Yes, it was hot (mid-90's), and yes, I got slightly sunburned. It was interesting to participate in an event that was one quarter the size we're used to, and run on "El Paso time" at that. Well, no matter, as we had a great time. Glen drove his Uncle Fred's 2003 Corvette and beat everybody (including Uncle Fred), even though he had a passenger on every run. I finally got medical clearance to autocross and drove Uncle Fred's stepson's car (a Cavalier) and took a couple of Glen's cousins for a ride they won't soon forget. Glen also helped out with driving tips for Uncle Fred and another one of his stepsons who drove a fun-looking Cobalt. I drove pretty well, considering I'm not used to front wheel drive and the very un-Miatalike weight transfers. Most importantly, we all had a lot of fun and got to spend a little more time with family.

May 29th was BSCC's third championship event of the year. Although Dieter was the lone PSMC driver at this event, he did us proud by winning the Sports Prepared class. He also got the fourth and seventh top times of the day (the first being his Time Only PM run).

The second event of WWSCC's championship season was "Autopilot", held on June 4 in Everett. Open Street looked much different than usual, as Dieter had tire woes and ended up in eighth place. New PSMC member Russ Hill finally brought out his '91 STS2 and promptly won the Street Tire 2 class. In the Pro1 class, Glen won a third place trophy in a 2005 Mini, and

Here continued next column

Here continued from previous column

Alan drove to an eighth place finish. Alan also took the ninth unindexed time of the day, and Glen took the third indexed time of the day.

If you feel like you're missing out, just stop by an autocross, take a look at the regional calendar (www.wwscc.org), or drop me an email: autox-rep1@ps-miata.org. We'll see you out there!



Can you believe the smile on Christy Driscoll's face after one of her 35 runs (above) during Ladies Day Practice at Boeing Field on June 10th? Looks like Cisco made a new autocross convert! Photos by Cisco Castro. (By the way, Christy just happens to be the editor's daughter.)



July Autocross

For details see www.wwscc.org

- 2 BSCC Event #5 at Bremerton
- 4 BSCC Monthly Meeting at Round Table Pizza, Gig Harbor
- 8-9 NWR/SCCA – SCCA Regional #5 at Packwood
- 11 NWR/SCCA Solo Committee Meeting at Bill's Bodacious BBQ, Renton
- 15-16 SCCA Denver NT at Denver International Airport
- 15 WWSCC Coneheads Practice in Everett
- 15 SSSCC – Novice Drivers School at Dust Devils Stadium
- 16 WWSCC Championship #5, All-Council Sports Car Spectacular in Everett
- 16 SSSCC – Event #6, School's Out at Dust Devils Stadium
- 17 WWSCC Council Meeting at Rogue Brewery, Issaquah
- 22-23 SCCA Denver ProSolo at Denver International Airport
- 23 NWR/SCCA – SCCA Regional #6 at Bremerton
- 23 OR/SCCA – Event #6 at Packwood
- 30 PSMC – WWSCC Championship #6, Miatacross at Everett

Miata Roll Cage Building, Part III: Main Hoop Diagonal and Harness Bar

Roll Cage continued from previous column

Article and photos by Doug Chase

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

Next up: main hoop diagonal and harness bar:



Here are the mount plates where the front hoop will attach to the firewall. The left one was pretty straightforward; the right one required a more surgical approach when welding: [Tip: If you're welding near something that you don't want to catch on fire, covering it up with a wet towel helps. So does a metal plate, obviously.]



Here you can see the bar that will attach the front hoop to the firewall, and you can also see why the surgical welding approach was needed:



Right side door bars are in:



When you have multi-tube junctions, the notches can get interesting. The picture below is the notch in the rear of the top door bar (shown above) where it meets the main hoop and harness bar:



Roll Cage continued next column

The center diagonal is in. This shares the load of the front strut tower braces and transfers it to the rest of the cage:



It also has an interesting notch where it meets the door bar, main hoop, and harness bar. Looks simple from this angle, right?



Here's what it looks like without the other tubes. Kinda cool, eh?



Question: That's a lot of forces in a tiny area... Do the forces counteract each other?

Answer: Well, sort of, but counteract isn't really the best word for it. A load on any tube in that joint is going to be shared by many other tubes so that each tube bears less load by itself.

Example: Let's say a car / pole / tree T-bones this Miata right at this junction. If the cage weren't there all of the load would be borne in one spot and all the metal there would crush. With all those tubes meeting there the load will be spread out all over the car. Some of the load is going to be absorbed by the main hoop. Some is going to be absorbed by the seat belt tower (this joint gets welded to the seat belt tower later). Some is going to travel through the harness bar across the car to the other side of the cage and the other seat belt tower. Some is going to travel through the center diagonal to the front hoop, which will then be spread out to the two front strut towers, etc.

Along these lines, the right a-pillar bar (for lack of a better term) is in. Note that where it attaches to the main hoop is another junction of 5 tubes. This will be a particularly strong spot on the cage, which will be handy if the car ever gets upside down.

Front view:



Rear view:



Roll Cage continued next page

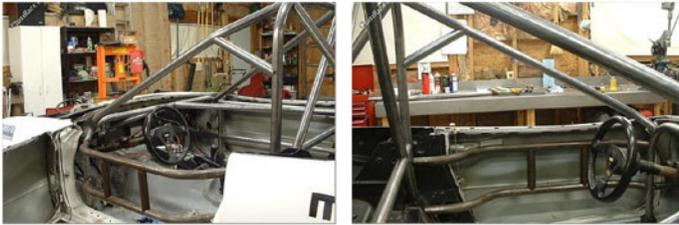
in the garage / around the town

Roll Cage continued from previous page

The left a-pillar bar is done:



Here the driver's side door bars are bent and tacked in place, along with a brace for the a-pillar bar:



I am now done making tubes but the cage isn't done yet. At this point the cage is just tacked together so there is lots of welding to do. Then some interior reassembly is needed. We're almost there.

Next Month: The Finishing Touches

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

Coop's Miata of Maple Valley (425) 432-9666
Doug's Lynnwood Mazda (425) 774-3551
Harbor Freight Tools (Everett store only) (425) 513-6213

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

Coming in 2007

Miatas in Moab III
Return of the MX-5s

image from www.utahmiataclub/miatasinmoab/index.htm

July 14 - 16, 2006



"**EXPLORE OREGON**" is an annual premier three-day event, organized this year by the Willamette Valley and Mt. Hood Clubs. Be prepared to enjoy some of Oregon's most beautiful and historic scenery as we explore the awesome back roads of the North Willamette Valley, Cascade foothills, Cascade Mountains, Mt. Hood, and one-of-a-kind Columbia River Gorge.

Costs: \$35.00 per person (\$65/couple). Includes Friday kick off BBQ (there is an additional \$3/car Day Use Fee); the event banquet at Resort at The Mountain; attendee pack with event stickers, maps and schedules.

Lodging: Call Resort At The Mountain at 800-669-7666 (starting at \$89.00 plus tax: they're going fast on a first come, first served basis), Welches, OR. The Phoenix Inn in Salem on Hawthorne and Market is offering special rates for Friday, July 14th through Sunday, July 16th (\$79 for King and \$89 for double queen plus tax). Call 503-581-7400. Be sure to ask for "Explore Oregon" special pricing at both locations.

Sign Up Now: Send registration check or money order to WVMC, PO Box 70025, Eugene, OR 97401.

For more information and Event Schedule, please go to the Willamette Valley Miata Club website at www.oregonmx5.com and/or The Mt. Hood website at <http://mthood.org>.



Oct. 6 - 8, 2006, Leavenworth, WA

Coordinated by John Hewitt, CMNW

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

event aftermath/club bizz



PFC R. W. Moore

CALLING ALL VETERANS!

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

Topless continued from page 6

this usually luckless reporter scored a T-shirt. Ask a certain Fred about winning his world class collection of floor mats. One couple attending was celebrating their 11th wedding anniversary and Mazda Canada presented them with gift watches. In "one of those" quirks of fate, they also won the 50-50 raffle, and took home over \$600. The other half of the 50-50 went to OVMC's charity, The British Columbia Transplant Society. Note well: Matt, the Sun Run event chair, is alive because of an organ transplant; that kind of thing does get your attention.

Sunday morning after yet another hotel breakfast, we zoomed up the road a couple of miles to where there was a Miata-only autocross race in a strip mall parking lot. Ah, the advantages of small sports cars; the site was only a couple of hundred meters in length and width, but it could hold a course where drivers cut 2.5 laps in about 45 seconds. The local autocross folks race here every Thursday night, to boot. The cost to race was \$10 CDN for as many runs as you could turn; that fee bought you a 1-day membership in the sanctioning club, which got you on their insurance policy. Nice simple way to cover that concern. Duncan at least walked the course with the racers and memories of racing days when he had sharper vision and faster reflexes came flooding back. Zoom-zoom, indeed. Even better, this venue had a microbrew-pub on site, and Miata spectators could wander in for a free brunch while the racers spun donuts and bonked cones outside. After about 3 hours of racing and eating were complete we climbed back in our Miatas for (guess what!?) another road tour, this time about an hour and a half twisting through the scenic hills and farms of East Kelowna. That marked the official end of the event, and participants went their separate ways, some going home Sunday night, others (including us) postponing departure to Monday. Our personal route home took us northwest up B.C. highways 97C (mountainous) and 8 (a deserted winding road through a canyon) to Spences Bridge, where we picked up the Trans Canada Highway down into the awesome scenery of the Fraser River Valley. We stayed overnight in Abbotsford, where we sipped at a Starbucks that is a biker joint, of all things. Crossed the border at Sumas, then parked and got our shiny new passports stamped by both the Canadian and US Authorities. We came all the rest of the way home on the two-laners, which is certainly a nicer drive than I-5 through the Seattle sprawl, wrapping up with 1150 more miles on Road Dancer's clock.

Looking back over decades of sports car meets of all kinds, races and rallies, tours and car shows, picnics and parties, the 2006 Okanagan Valley Topless Sun Run has to be marked as one of the very best in that long tenure in this unique hobby. It had everything, and on a large scale, it all was fun, and everything came together flawlessly from the participant's viewpoint. We shall indeed zoom-zoom there again in the future.

New Faces

We hope to meet you at an event soon!

By Randy Umemoto

Wendy & George Hewitt	Bellingham, WA	91 Silver
Mark Waltz	Port Townsend, WA	91 BRG
Steve Alpiner	Auburn, WA	92 Red
Starke Shelby	Seattle, WA	90 White
Walt & Jan Mills	Camano Island, WA	03 Garnet Red
Marylyn Ward & Jay Johnston	Seattle, WA	06 Sunlight Silver

Familiar Faces

Try a new Miata Event this year!

Virginia Marshall & Ken MacIntosh	04 Silver	1 yr
Judy Templeton & Bruce Donner	91 Silver	2 yrs
Steve Whisman	97 Black	2 yrs
Dale & Charlene Sain	95 Merlot	10 yrs
A.J. & Vickie McGranaghan	04 Silver	2 yrs
Cathy & Bill Morris	91 BRG	3 yrs
Bruce & Kathy Gustafson	97 Black	2 yrs
John & Patricia Parker	99 Twilight Blue	3 yrs
Dennis & Linda McDowell	99 Red	7 yrs
Thomas Slipp	91 Mariner Blue	2 yrs
Andrew & Dustin Locke	06 Winning Blue	1 yr
Wayne & Sun Weatherhogg	94 Red	1 yr
Rick & Sue Wilson	03 Garnet Red	5 yrs

Election Results

By Bonnie Lohkamp

The 2005/2006 PSMC Elections were held Saturday June 17, 2006 at Coop's Miata. Those attending were treated to a wonderful potluck ranging from pizza, sub sandwiches, salads and desserts. They were also treated to an informative presentation from Steve Kovach of the LeMay museum.

The officers elected are as follows:

President: Dustin Lewis; Chief Executive Officer: Maury Fugitt;
Chief Communications Officer: Bonnie Lohkamp;
Treasurer: Sean McGriff

Directors at Large: Bill Aycock, Charley Drake, Jim Hightchew, Gayle Lazur, Andrew Locke, Larry Lohkamp, Patrick McSherry, Stuart Sabel, Mike Springer, Dennis Thompson and David Whooley

Roadster Ramblings

By Dustin Locke, PSMC Prez

Hello PSMC'ers! For my first "Message from the President" I would like to introduce myself and tell you all a little bit about me.



I am an avid car enthusiast and collector. I have been a Miata owner and fanatic for the past eight years. I am extremely enthusiastic about modifying, driving and enjoying my little Roadster. To me, no matter how much horsepower or how many gadgets a car may have, there is nothing quite as enjoyable as hitting some twisty mountain roads on a sunny day in a Miata. There is also something else that the Miata possesses that its competitors just can't quite seem to duplicate. That something is the owners. I have been a member of eight different car clubs and not one of them had the enthusiastic, fun-loving quality people that the Miata seems to attract. It is something to have a wonderful sports car but it is something else to share that experience with amazing friends. To me, that is one of the Miata's most amazing assets.

Aside from owning many interesting sports cars over the years, I have also had many years of experience residing on the Boards of various car clubs. Most recently, I was the "Historian" for the San Diego Miata Club for five years. In that position I was responsible for archiving run instructions, organizing the official club photo albums and designing a presentation for the Annual meetings. While living in San Diego, I put on and lead over fifty runs and events. I have always been an enthusiastic and spirited member of the Miata community. Since moving to Washington just a little over a year ago, I have been an active member of PSMC along with my husband Andrew. We have participated in as many events as we possibly could and have put on a few events of our own.

I feel that this is a great time to step into office as president. We have so many excellent events coming up this year. There is the Guns n' Roses Tour, the Drive In Movie Run, the Wine Tour, Explore Oregon weekend, and Miatacross just to name a few of the up and coming events! Also, let's not forget about PSMC's 15th Annual Gathering on August 27th! I sure hope to see you all at that one, I know I'll be there shining up my Miata for the Concourse Car Show! I look forward to cheering on this club as President for the next year. Let's make it a year to remember of amazing cars and wonderful friends!

See you on the twisties.

Gathering continued from page 1

be having raffles for tons of great-donated prizes from Miata vendors. I think that it is safe to say that this is one event that really offers something for everyone.

The cost to attend will be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for the driver & car and ten dollars for passengers (\$10.00), which includes lunch. If you do not wish to eat the catered lunch, that is more than fine. However, the cost will be the same. You may pay at the door on the day of the event, although advanced payment is highly encouraged. We will need your lunch **RSVP by August 13th** if you wish to eat while at the Gathering. **Please send checks to:** Bonnie Lohkamp; 7701 Hardeson Rd. #29; Everett, WA 98203.

We will be having much more information as the event nears. Please check the Web Site as well as the August Sounder for more information.



OFFICERS/DIRECTORS WEB COMMITTEE

CHIEF OFFICERS

Operating _____ Dustin Locke
 Executive _____ Maury Fuggitt
 Communications _____ Bonnie Lohkamp
 Financial _____ Sean McGriff

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Bill Aycock Andrew Locke Mike Springer
 Charley Drake Larry Lohkamp Dennis Thompson
 Jim Hightchew Patrick McSherry David Whooley
 Gayle Lazur Stuart Sable

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 Data Coordinator _____ Randy Umemoto
 Parade Coordinator _____ Mindy Bohnas
 Sounder Editor _____ Cindy Smith
 Webmaster _____ Eric Bass
 Autocross Rep _____ Denise Williamson

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 Website Advisor _____ Allan Ohlsen
 Programmer _____ Josh Smith

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

Puget Sound Miata Club
3901 SW Hanford
Seattle WA 98116

July 2006

- 4 Kingston Fourth of July Parade
- 8 Drive-in Movie Run, hosted by Locke (see pg 2)
- 22 Miatas do LaConner - Bring Your Own Blanket, hosted by Mackey & Huckleberry (see pg 2)
- 27-30 Pinot Noir Wine Tour in North Central OR, hosted by Houghton & Hayes/Jaeger (see page 3)
- 30 Chinatown Parade
- 29 West Lewis County Historic Fun Run, hosted by Wilsons (see page 3)
- 30 PSMC Miatacross, coordinated by McGriff & Beldi (see pg 1)

August 2006

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

September 2006

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

October 2006

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

November 2006

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

December 2006

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

Classifieds

2001 MIATA LS FOR SALE

Excellent Condition

Only 23,500 miles

Emerald Mica with Saddle Tan leather interior

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

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

Coop's opinion – "A Cream Puff"

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

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

1999 MIATA FOR SALE

Emerald Mica w/Tan Leather

Always Garaged – Not a Daily Driver

53,000 miles

A/C; Cruise Control; Bose audio AM/FM CD/Cassette w/ door mounted tweeters; Power windows; Door Locks; Side mirrors; Antenna; Power assisted steering; Fog lamps; 3 spoke Nardi leather wrapped steering wheel; Torsen limited-slip differential; 15" 5 spoke alloy wheels w/locks

Nearly new 195/50R15 Toyo Proxes 4 tires; Front air dam; Side sills; Rear mud guards; Factory windblocker; Hard dog roll bar w/tan vinyl cover; Strut tower brace; Wicked loud horn; Padded leather console box cover (not a stick on); High flow grill.

Asking \$11,500.00

For more information, call (253) 891-3770

PARTS FOR SALE

Oris Windstop with mounting brackets. \$125.00. Call (253) 891-3770

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You can now get your Sounder via email instead of snail mail. It's easy, just send an email to sounder@comcast.net

