

# Miata Sounder



THE FIRST OFFICIAL UNITED STATES MIATA CLUB

January/February/March 2020

## Miata Mingle

### Saturday March 21, 2020 @ 10am

Meet Tom Matano, head designer of the NA Miata, among other Mazda models, in person! Announcing an all Miata event sponsored by Doug's Lynnwood Mazda, 22214 Hwy 99, Edmonds, WA 98026 on Saturday, March 21st. There will be food trucks and prizes! There will be special cars on display!!

Let's meet up around 10 am when we will get an opportunity to look at everyone's cars and check in. Every Miata is as unique as their owners in that everyone has a different idea of what a Miata is to them, so come and see! The food trucks arrive around noon and at that time we will get to meet and listen to Tom Matano talk about his work on your car!

Mr. Matano has thirty years of experience in the automotive design industry. Prior to joining the faculty at the Academy of Art University, he held design positions at General Motors Design in Michigan, GM Holden's in Australia, and BMW in Germany. In 1983, he became a Chief Designer

at Mazda North America. He continued there to become VP of Design, EVP of the Western R & D operations. From 1999 to 2002, Matano worked in Mazda Headquarters in Japan, as an Executive Designer, where he managed the Chief Designers group that creates the entire Mazda car line designs, as well as the European and North American studios. His accomplishments at Mazda include the MPV, MX 5, RX 7, Miata "M-Coupe" and Miata "M-Speedster" concept cars and many other projects by the design teams he managed and created. Mr. Matano is committed to becoming

**Continued on Page 14:**

### *Inside this issue*

### *Page*

MIATA MINGLE	1
NEW MEMBERS' WELCOME DRIVE/LEGAL ITEMS	2
MEMORIAL FOR KAREN COOPER	3
COOP'S MIATA AD	4
REMEMBERING THE PAST DRIVING SEASON:	5-8
PSMC 30TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY WRAP UP AND PICTURES	9-12
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	13
PACCAR VEHICLE TESTING LAB	14
PSMC BOARD MEETING	14
UPCOMING EVENTS/MIATA LINK/SAFETY	15
TULIP RALLYE PRE-DINNER AND PSMC OFFICERS/MEMBERS/MEMBERSHIP	16
BUSINESS DISCOUNT INFORMATION	17



## Legal Stuff

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The *SOUNDER* is published several times a year (as close to the first of the month as possible). Many months are combined. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the 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

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

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# New Members' Welcome Drive Saturday April 18, 2020 @ 11:00am

Are you new to the Puget Sound Miata Club and yet to participate in a club event? Or perhaps you have been a member for the last two or three years, wondering what else your club has to offer? Maybe you're a long time member looking to meet new members, have fun and go for a great drive. Come check it out; this event is for you.

Some of the goals of the PSMC is to see you get the most enjoyment from your Miata through club events and activities with like-minded people.

Please join us for a social time, no-host lunch, at Kidd Valley in Gene Coulon Park in Renton, followed by a great drive on some scenic and fun twisty roads. Some of your PSMC Board Members will be on hand, looking forward to meeting you, explaining "How we do it" and answering questions. We will present "goody bags" to our new members too. This event is designed for the new member, but all are encouraged to join in. Please plan to come to this fun event and meet so

terrific people that enjoy the Miata experience as much as you do. The plan is to start at 11 a.m. with lunch, social time and presentations. At around 12:15 we will gather in the parking lot for a "drivers' meeting" before heading off for a one-hour adventure of fun roads. It should end by 3 p.m. Please RSVP so we (and the restaurant) can plan for you.

**First Tuesday  
North-End  
Cruise-In Social  
@ 5:30pm  
March 3, 2020,  
April 4, 2020 and  
May 5, 2020 at  
Coure Dell  
Amante  
Pizza and Pasta,  
12902 Bothell  
Everett Highway,  
Suite D,  
Everett, WA**

# Memorial For Karen Cooper

## February 15, 2020 @ 1:30pm

**Karen Cooper Memorial**  
**1:30-4:00pm, February 15th**  
**Cedar Grange, 22531 SE 218th St.**  
**Maple Valley, WA 98038**

Karen Cooper, long time member, past president and extraordinary event planner took a turn onto the highway to heaven on December 27th surrounded by her family.



Her loving husband Bill and her children sent her on her way with love in their hearts.

She was an active member of the PSMC, most recently responsible for planning the 2019 30th Anniversary Party on Dec. 7. At that party, Karen said, "I want this club to survive because I have many friends in this club and I love this club." Karen's organizational skills and creativity brought our club a wonderful celebration. Karen also was a past president of the club.

Her Miata Club friends are invited to a memorial for Karen. We will celebrate her life the way she lived, with joy and love. No alcohol please.

# Coop's Miata



**10% Labor  
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for PSMC  
Members!**

**Coop's Miata**  
**20929 Southeast 232<sup>nd</sup> Street**  
**Maple Valley, WA 98038**  
**Phone: (425) 432-9666**  
**Email: [wcoopster@comcast.net](mailto:wcoopster@comcast.net)**  
**[www.coopsmiata.com](http://www.coopsmiata.com)**

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**Additional Specials  
Available. See our  
website for details.**

## Remembering The Past Driving Season: WVMC HALFWAY-AND-BACK TOUR

**By Dee & Duncan in her 2016 white "Road Dancer"**

In early September 2019 your reporters joined a group of about a dozen Miatas at Willamette Valley Miata Club's biennial "Halfway and Back" tour. The run gets its name because over multiple days it takes the zoomiest back roads from Salem, Oregon to the village of Halfway, Oregon (near Hell's Canyon) and returns via yet another selection of very excellent twisties. In-



deed, we drove 1900 miles and the most distant point was only about 300 miles from our home. This tour was so remarkably different from the average car club event that it deserves some explanation. Most motorsports events happen in one place, even if

there is some driving around involved. In contrast, the Halfway run was a multi-day exercise in Crossing The Land on the best roads for Sports Motoring, stopping in a different country town every evening. More driving fun than some sit-around event; life is about the journey, not the destination. Too much information follows, but enthusiasts will want to take note of this route for future reference.

Out of Salem we first went east to Prineville for a brewpub lunch and an afternoon cruise through Painted Hills National Monument which shows a Technicolor history of the striations of Climate Change over the geologic eons. That first night was in John Day with a good-old-boy steak house dinner. Next morning our driver needed her morning coffee and there was no Starbucks around (rural town with history of mining and ranching,) but we found a

**Continued on Page 6:**

## Remembering The Past Driving Season: WVMC HALFWAY-AND-BACK TOUR

### Continued from Page 5:

suitable espresso stand operating out of a converted window in the Polaris snowmobile/ORV dealership! Yup, small town. Before our Miatas pressed on we all squeezed in a guided tour through the Kam Wa Chung heritage site, which is the perfectly preserved (since 1948) antique home and store of a long-gone local Chinese merchant and doctor. After the local Chinatown faded away at the turn of the last century the white folks turned to his care, because his ancient herbal remedies could stop infections, which were killers in those days before modern antibiotics.

Day Two we zoomed south toward Burns on US 395 through canyons and mountains with a 65 mph speed limit. We turned east on US 20 (which becomes the Boston Post Road about 2800 miles ahead, according to our navigator's New England roots) and



lunched in Vale at a mid-century diner. There was a white '63 Corvette split-window coupe across the street for our navigator's viewing pleasure. The day finished in Baker City, with a side trip to dinner in the lonely village of Haines where the fabulous steak house is about the only viable business. Remarkably dark and empty main street after sunset! For the third day we headed east toward Halfway (so named because when its original post office needed a name the locals decided they were halfway between two other towns.) Visiting the BLM Oregon Trail Interpretive Site east of Baker City put us right in with the pioneers; hmmm, we were traveling further in an hour than they did in a week. Our mid-day Sunday Dinner was at Wild Bill's dive bar in Halfway and it had many hunters suited up for The Season plus a

### Continued on Page 7:

## Remembering The Past Driving Season: WVMC HALFWAY-AND-BACK TOUR

### Continued from Page 6:

real cowboy (with spurs, even) sitting at a table, happily bouncing his toddler on his knee and sending texts on his smartphone. The image was adorable, but all wrong out there in cattle country. After lunch we crossed the Snake River and twisted our way up out of the canyon on the Idaho side. There was late summer road construction and at one bridge building site we were in ca-boose position and got separated when the traffic light controlling flows through a single lane segment stopped us in our tracks for a l-o-n-g time. We feared everyone would be gone to dinner



at the steak house at our destination in Riggins by the time we got to the hotel. Our driver turned up the tap, rather in violation of local municipal codes, and we actually caught the back of the Miata pack despite very few miles remaining to do it. Surrripriiiiise, here we are again, did you other cruisers miss us?

Fourth day we ran north to Lewiston (more fine roads.) We had a mid-morning rest stop in the hamlet of Stites, where the gals got the one-holer public facility behind the abandoned fire engine and the guys got the bushes, usual road tour drill there. Mid-day we entered extreme southeast Washington and our sub-group headed south toward Enterprise, Oregon, while some others went wine tasting. We ran Rattlesnake Grade (Washington 129 through Anatone, becomes Oregon 3.) Four Miatas zoomed the Rattlesnake in close order through its 212 corners in 20 miles, and we were executing a precise 4-car ballet. Our walkie-talkie radios made it possible for all to get by slower traffic as long as as the lead Miata could report "all clear," and we didn't have to get into terrifying old school West Virginia Passing going around blind corners.

**Continued on Page 8:**

## Remembering The Past Driving Season: WVMC HALFWAY-AND-BACK TOUR

### Continued from Page 7:

Believe it or not, your reporters had never driven this road before and now it is our favorite in the whole state. Everyone finished together in Pendleton where it was Roundup Week (their big rodeo) and we seemed to be the only vehicles not pulling horse trailers. For a change we dined on pizza instead of a steak house; probably heresy in those parts.

Fifth morning we headed out of Pendleton along SR 74, which hangs on the canyon wall plunging and snaking down to Hepner. At the mid-morning stop it was noted that one Miata had a loose lug nut, and when a wrench was produced to tighten it several others were found to be loose as well. Timely pit stop! We then continued on 206 and 19 to lunch in Fossil (yes, there is a town by that name) at the Korner Kafe, where the one server and one cook were momentarily shocked by our group but they performed well, even if it was not exactly our usual choice of a Steak House Dive Bar. Heck, there is even a preserved old Chevrolet dealership across from The Mercantile in Fossil, looks open for business and fully functional, except there were no cars there. None. Zero. Could the proprietors be zombies wandering out of the recent GM bankruptcy? When our lunches settled, we zoomed to Shaniko and walked through that real ghost town left over from sheep ranching and wool shipping days a century ago. Leaving the ghosts behind we picked up the road west through Bakeoven (who names these places?) to Maupin, then a little road on the east side of the Deschutes River, then 216 to Tygh Valley to The Dalles for the final night. Halibut for dinner at the historic Baldwin Saloon, neither a steak house nor a dive bar.

Sixth day there was one more run offered to the host club's area of Salem, but Road Dancer opted for a shortcut home the scenic back way, over Satus Pass (US 97) and Chinook Pass (WA 410.) Maybe there is a country song in all this: "I was drunk at too many steakhouse dive bars... my wife drove her Miata to the train..." You take it from here.

# **PSMC 30th Anniversary Party Wrap Up**

**By Charlotte Fellers**

The 30th Anniversary Party that celebrated the organization of the Puget Sound Miata Club as well as the birth of the Miata, was a rousing success! Held at the Cedarbrook Lodge in Des Moines, the event wrapped up another year of fun in the Miata. No less than ten past presidents and a few charter, and near-charter members, also attended to celebrate this momentous event.

The evening started off with a mix-n-mingle where the 35 attendees used push pins to highlight all the places they have driven in their Miatas over the past 30 years. It was a stiff competition, but all in all, suffice to say that the whole United States and parts of Canada were highlighted. By the end of the mixer, most states on the U.S. map and some in Canada, were dotted with push pins. We've been everywhere!

A delicious dinner featuring two entrees and an array of dessert choices led into a rousing discussion of some fun people, places and events that have occurred over the past 30 years. Bill Cooper served as the emcee and gave everyone a chance to introduce themselves and discuss the car they currently drive. Club President Charlotte Fellers recognized members who hosted drives or other events during 2019 and thanked them for the volunteer efforts.

Another important part of the program was a presentation by a member of the staff of Treehouse, which is a non-profit organization in King County that provides many types of support services for foster children throughout the county. Besides mentoring, Treehouse helps out foster children by funding extra-curricular activities they would not normally be able to do, such as play sports during the school year, go to summer camps or participate in other activities that make childhood a fun experience. Treehouse was adopted as a charity by the club for this event and those in attendance donated more than \$500 to help Treehouse with their work. (If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to Treehouse, you can do so here).

Door prizes were awarded and goodies provided by one of our sponsors, Mazda USA, were distributed to all who attended. All in all, it was a fun evening with lots of reconnecting by old friends and acquaintances made by new friends.

# PSMC 30th Anniversary Pictures



# PSMC 30th Anniversary Pictures Continued



# PSMC 30th Anniversary Pictures Continued



# President's Message

By Ross Scott

Greetings Miata Fans! I am looking forward to serving as the president of PSMC for 2020, especially since we have such a good board, including Tom Millar, Sean McGriff, Bill Cooper, Dave Ferriby, Bill Bell, Pete Nicholson, Keith Medleau, and Pat McNulty. Also, there are some great events coming up this year that should be a good time!

Start early getting that car unburied for Valentine's Day and the Park and Sip in Woodinville on February 8th, ably led by Tom Millar and Paul Jaeger. Good wine and chocolate, what could be better? March can come in like a lion, because not only is the First Tuesday Social on the 3rd, there is an event coming up in March that could be big. The date is not nailed down yet, but it will be an all-Miata event with Tom Matano, NA Miata designer. I will let you all know time and date later! April ramps right up with the club's quarterly board meeting on the 4th at Lee Johnson's Mazda. The First Tuesday Social held at Coure Del Amante Italian restaurant will be hosted by Tom Millar. The 11th, there will be a nice drive through the country up to the Paccar Vehicle Testing Lab, led by Ingvar Carlson. There will be food trucks at the site. I recommend the strawberry shortcake and ice cream. The 18 of April will be the New Member's

Welcome Drive, where new members get introduced to the club with all sorts of Mazda-branded gear and go on a short drive to another of my favorites, Boehm's Candies in Issaquah. On the 25th is the MG club Tulip Rally, while not a PSMC club event it is not to be missed. Also, if you are there the night before, meet up with Duncan and Dee for dinner. Details on the website.

Ok May! The First Tuesday Social is on the 5th. On the 9th, we will have Detailin' Day at Coop's Miata in Maple Valley. Bring your sad and dusty car to Coop's and wash your car and help get it buffed and waxed to a brilliant shine aided by our veteran volunteers. There will be food and music! On May 16th is the Viking Fest Parade in Poulsbo. If you have a Miata and always wanted to be in a Parade but never got the chance, this is it! They always can use another car. Come on now. I know you really want to. Capping off the month is my 6th Annual Drive to Lunch, in which we have a nice drive along country roads to lunch at a horse arena. No oats. I'm not kidding!

More Later!  
Keep Zooming!  
Ross

**Paccar Vehicle  
Testing Lab  
Hosted By Ingvar Carlson**

**PSMC Board  
Meeting**

**Date and Time:** April 11, 2020 @ 7:45am

**Meet At:** Starbucks on Aurora / SR205 Edmonds next to the Home Depot at 7:45 am for an 8 am departure.

The Run Up to Mt. Vernon, Washington is set for April 11 to the Paccar Vehicle Testing Lab. This event is open only one Saturday per year for the public. We are meeting at the Starbucks on Aurora / SR205 Edmonds next to the Home Depot at 7:45 am for an 8 am departure. We will then drive to Monroe and arrive around 8:45 for a 9 am departure at the Chevron station on the east end of town on Highway 2 to meet up with those who live closer to there.

We need to be in Mt Vernon at 11am when the facility opens to the public. We will park in the test track area, as a group. Breakfast & lunch is served by the Lions for us when the doors open. There will be a winding back road route that will be a lot of fun for the ZOOMERS, Another group will go direct via I-5. For the people who want more, at 1:30pm we will depart towards Anacortes, and end up in La Conner.

Those needing an early departure in Mt Vernon may leave after the Test-Lab Tour, or join us for some more curvy Zoomer Roads. That's what its all about.

14

**Hosted by the PSMC Board**

**Date and Time:** April 4, 2020 at 11am

**Location:** Lee Johnson Mazda, 11845 NE 85th St, Kirkland, WA 98033; Second floor in the Conference Room.

Join your board of directors for our second board meeting of 2020 and become a part of the action!

At this meeting, we'll have a light lunch (provided by the board) beginning at 11 a.m. and conduct a regular business meeting with a review of the club treasury to follow.

Planning for the upcoming Detailin' Day will commence and we'll look ahead to summer activities and any future events that need attention.

Hope you can attend and contribute your great ideas.

**Miata Mingle**

**Continued from Page 1:**

an educator, and using his diverse knowledge and experience to enhance the Industrial Design program at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, since 2002. We are thrilled to have this rare opportunity to welcome such an expert to our area. A Big thank you to Doug's Lynnwood Mazda! Be sure to join us, drop-ins welcome!

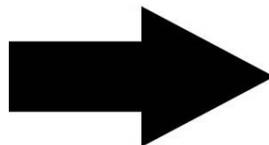
## Upcoming Events — Something for Everyone!

*(The year at a glance — check website or future Sounders for updates)*

**February: Feb 15** Karen Cooper Memorial  
**March: Mar 03** First Tuesday North-End Cruise-In Social  
**Mar 21** Miata Mingle  
**April: Apr 04** PSMC board meeting  
**Apr 07** First Tuesday North-End Cruise-In Social  
**Apr 11** Paccar Vehicle Testing Lab  
**Apr 18** New Members' Welcome Drive  
**Apr 24** Tulip Rallye Pre-Dinner  
**Apr 25** MG CAR CLUB 39TH ANNUAL TULIP RALLY  
**May: May 05** First Tuesday North-End Cruise-In Social  
**May 09** Detailin' Day  
**May 16** Viking Fest Parade  
**May 30** Drive to Lunch  
**June: Jun 02** First Tuesday North-End Cruise-In Social  
**Jun 06** PSMC board meeting  
**Jun 13** Coop's Garage Swap Meet  
**Jun 27** Fathoms O' Fun Parade  
**July: Jul 04** Annual Pacific Northwest Historic Car Corral  
**Jul 15** Two Lanes to Oregon  
**Jul 16** Expore Oregon (hosted by Willamette Valley Miata Club)  
**Jul 18** Drive to Port Angeles  
**Jul 25** Silverdale Whaling Days Parade

**Additional Events Will Be Added At Any Time. Please check back at:**  
<http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org/page-1624266>

**Miata Helpful Link: <https://www.miata.net//>**



# Tulip Rallye Pre-Dinner April 24, 2020 @ 5:30pm

**Hosted by:** Dee Dahlke & Duncan Johnson

**Location:** Johnny Carino's Italian Restaurant, 150 Cascade Mall Dr., Burlington, WA 98233. Meet outside the front doors by 5:45 p.m.

ToadHallWA@yahoo.com; 253-845-2424 home, 253-327-4368 navigator's cell on day of event.

Your event producers will be entered in the MG Car Club's 39th annual Tulip Rallye on Saturday, April 25, and will be staying near the start in Burlington, WA.

If any Miata enthusiasts would like to meet up for a no-host dinner the night before the rallye, we'll be going to Johnny Carino's, which is on the other side of Cascade Mall from where the rallye will start. Meet us outside the restaurant's front door at 5:45 PM. Look for our conspicuous orange jackets if you don't know us.

If there are enough RSVPs on our PSMC club web site, we'll book a group table. For information about the Tulip Rallye, go to the host club's web site: then check their events calendar for April 25 and find your way to the rallye website. Pre-registration for the rallye is strongly recommended.



## OFFICERS -

President: Ross Scott  
president@pugetsoundmiataclub.org  
Vice President: Keith Medleau  
viceprez@pugetsoundmiataclub.org  
Past President: Charlotte Fellers  
pastprez@pugetsoundmiataclub.org  
Secretary: Tom Millar  
secretary@pugetsoundmiataclub.org  
TREASURER: SEAN MCGRIFF  
treasurer@pugetsoundmiataclub.org

## DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE -

GLENN HAY-ROE, DAVE FERRIBY, BILL COOPER, BILL BELL, TOM MILLAR, AND PATRICK MCNULTY.

## APPOINTED POSITIONS -

WEBMINION: SEAN MCGRIFF  
ASSISTANT WEBMASTERS: CHARLOTTE FELLERS  
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membership@pugetsoundmiataclub.org  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: BILL BELL  
editor@pugetsoundmiataclub.org  
PARADE COORDINATOR: BILL HUGHES

## 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 newsletter, and operating supplies constitute a financial burden that must be met by the membership. **The Sounder is emailed as a PDF Link.** 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 our website at [www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org](http://www.pugetsoundmiataclub.org) or by sending your name, address, email, and a check for **\$30 (annual chapter dues)**. Puget Sound Miata Club  
Sean McGriff

222 Wells Ave N  
Renton, WA 98057

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 JPEGs 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, i.e. word doc or docx or file text.
- The deadline is the 15th of the next 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%*

*Milam Mazda of Puyallup (253) 845-1766 /*

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

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