



Calendar Spotlight: Greg Bilton

BUCKLE UP FOR THE PHILLYMINI 2024 RALLY SEASON

Navigating the Roads: MINI Cooper Driving Events

Rev up your engines and get ready for an exhilarating journey with PhillyMINI Rally Events! Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or just starting your automotive adventures, these events offer the perfect blend of excitement and camaraderie for MINI Cooper lovers.

Join us as we hit the road for a series of adrenaline-pumping drives designed to showcase the iconic performance and agility of MINI Cooper vehicles. From winding country lanes to bustling city streets, each route is carefully selected to provide a thrilling driving experience like no other.

But PhillyMINI Rally Events are about more than

just the thrill of the ride. They're also an opportunity to connect with fellow members and share in the passion for this timeless marque. Swap stories, exchange tips, and forge new friendships as you journey together through picturesque landscapes and charming destinations.

Whether you prefer the classic styling of the Mini Cooper or the versatility of the Countryman or Clubman, there's an event suited to your tastes and driving style. With expert guidance from experienced leaders and sweepers, you'll learn how to harness the full potential of your MINI while honing your driving skills in a safe and supportive environment.

But the fun doesn't end when the driving stops. PhillyMINI rallies also offer plenty of opportunities to unwind and socialize, with post-drive lunches featuring delicious food and refreshing drinks.

So, what are you waiting for? Join us for an unforgettable adventure with PhillyMINI Rally Events - there are at least two rallies per month - and experience the thrill of the open road like never before. Whether you're a solo driver or have a navigator, there's a warm welcome waiting for you in the PhillyMINI community.

Let's hit the road and make memories that will last a lifetime!

Ambassador Spotlight



How did you learn about PhillyMINI?

I learned about the club from my partner in crime, Josh, Officer of Logistics.

How long have you been a member? Five years.

What is your MINI's name? Winnie and Oopers

What is your favorite part of being a member of PhillyMINI?

The twists and turns, the beautiful sights, and the wonderful peeps!

What is your favorite rally? Why? (If you are filling out as a Rally Master, please spotlight all your upcoming rally/rallies this season.)

I love the Night Owl and Covered Bridges equally! They are both located in places we do not often drive in, the scenery is beautiful, and....we can go FAST!!! 🥰

What is your favorite PhillyMINI memory? Why?

My favorite memory was, when I was first in the club, at Mini's in the Mountains. Avery and Josh were in a prank war. Avery put a cricket machine in our mini. After waiting it out, she got her win. We both jumped out of our mini frantically searching for the noise. Little did she know, Josh driving and noises is a no-go...no noise of any kind! He was going nuts to find the source of the sound. Hats off to you Avery!!!!

What is your favorite part/thing/aspect of your MINI?

That is a hard one. I love them both (even though Winnie goes straight in turns)! Oopers slides around corners like it is her job and accelerates like a rocket. Yet somehow always seems to stay between the mayo and mustard. We bought our newest mini for \$500 from a guy Josh races with who said the trans blew. We technically WON her because it was not a bad transmission, just a loose bolt. Hence the name Winnie!

What are some other thoughts you have about being named an Ambassador?

I am thrilled to be an ambassador for the second year! I look forward to getting to see everyone at the rallies this season! It is going to be a great year! See you out there! Warm regards, Darci Galie - aka Josh's actual better half despite what others might have heard it is not Vinnie.

Darci Galle



Thank You, Leader & Sweeper

Trying something new this year, we wanted a way to thank last year's leaders, sweepers and marshalls. Without your help, rallies would not run as smoothly and our little MINIs in a row could get lost. So this year we held a pre-season rally just for the people that help us keep our "Ducks in a row". It was not a nice day but the few that came out and braved the weather had as much fun as a duck in the rainy weather. Yes we dodged streams of water and couldn't have our pre-rally social time but there was lots of fun twisting around the backroads. I think the rain helped with traffic too... so bonus! At the end, the club treated all the leaders and sweepers to appetizers and lunch at World of Beer in Exton. We are looking forward to the season ahead! If you are interested in helping this year with leading, sweeping or being a marshall, please talk to one of the officers of the club. We are thankful for the help always.



Annual Members Meeting Does Not Disappoint

Due to St Patty's, Palm Sunday and Easter, this year's Members Meeting was held early on Saturday March 9, 2024. After a lot of compliments last year, we decided to go back to Telford at Franconia Heritage Banquet Center. The menu consisted of beef brisket, chicken marsala and some of the yummiest mashed potatoes ever! The cake was made in house as well and was decorated to look like the front of a MINI in this year's color, Solaris Orange.



After a hearty meal, our fantastic MINIs-ter of Social Media, Vinnie, broke the ice with a fun interactive game similar to the old game show "Let's Make A Deal" combined with Musical Chairs. Each table/team appointed a "tribute" and sent them forward to compete. As Vinnie called out random items, participants sprinted through the tables to collect the item and return to their seat before all the seats were taken. Each turn removed a seat until we were down to the last two participants. There was a show down between Mike Marzo and Dani Amorando from MINI of Allentown for the win. It was a fight, but Dani's quick thinking brought her table/team the win.



We covered lots of information in this year's presentation and if you missed it, all information, such as the calendar and dealer/vendor discounts, will be posted on our webpage and forum as well as date reminders here in the monthly newsletter.



But lets talk about some of the presentation highlights for a moment.... New this year, we will be launching the PhillyMINI phone app. The App will allow you to sign up for rallies, dinners etc, directly from your phone. In addition, if you set preferences to allow notifications, the App will allow officers and rally masters to send out group texts to the participants. If there is an emergency change of venue, we can notify

participants directly through messenger etc. The app is pending approval at this time, but watch social media for the announcement when it is open and ready for downloading.

Also new this year, all rallies will be posted to the calendar at the beginning of the season. We will post basic rally information such as start point, end point and total number of miles (except Cooper Cup). This will allow members to schedule their season plans accordingly. As always, rally sign ups will only be open 2 weeks prior to the rally date, so you will not be able to sign up early. Rally information and lunch plans will all continue to be released 2 weeks prior to the rally date, as well.

We have some new rallies this season, and some rally makeovers. New this year is the Leader & Sweeper kick off rally. A special rally for our past and present leaders and sweepers as a way for the club to say thank you. Some other new rallies this year are The Hershey Rally, Marcie's Manuvers, and Antiques Roadshow. We of course have our ever popular rallies on the schedule too: MNIs to the Shore, Macungie Meander, MINIs Cross the Delaware, Pagoda, Union Jack and Deck the MINIs. Getting a name change this year is Twistygiving which will now be known as MINicopia Fall Harvest Run. We also renamed the famous PhillyMINI BBQ. It will now be called the CAR-B-Que and will still be lots of food, fun and friends! The ChesCo Loop was formerly known as the Night Owl but will now be run during the day. Many past members have missed our trips to



Members' Meeting Madness



Longwood Gardens preceding the Deck The MINIs holiday event every year. We decided this year to hold a Longwood Gardens day and rally separate from Deck the MINIs. The M&M rally will be hosted by the Miata club this year and we are looking forward to what their club has put together for us.

Rounding out our rally season we will be participating in the Montgomery County, Conshohocken, St Patty's Day Parade, holding a Cars & Coffee Event at Sweet's, showing off at the Cars & Motorcycles of England car show, cheering for our Italian Job racers at the 24 Hours of Lemons race in New Jersey, Waving in the Bala Cynwyd 4th of July Parade and showing how big our hearts are at Preston & Steve's Camp Out for Hunger.

What more do you want to see on the schedule? How about feeder routes to popular national events such as MINIs on the Dragon and MINIs take Vermont... Or a launch party at MINI of Allentown for the 2025 MINI models which will also include a bon voyage party for all our MTTs participants. We also have dinners each month and a new cars and coffee location coming later this year. Pittsburgh Grand Prix hosts marquee MINI Cooper this year and we hope to send a feeder route out for this fun event as well. And our ever popular and twisted fun, Cooper Cup will be hosted by last year's winner, Ally Sasek!

That is a lot of PhillyMINI fun packed into one season! We look forward to seeing everyone having fun this year at whatever events you choose.

Members' Meeting Madness

We also offered a sneak peak of a lot of newly designed clings and buttons for this year! Be warned though there are limited quantities at each rally so don't miss out on a chance to grab one of these amazing designs!

During the presentation we celebrated and acknowledged changes to the officers group. Deputy Prime MINISTERS, Ronnie and Tony Gauker, have resigned and Barry Meyer has transitioned from Logistics to Deputy Prime MINISTER. We thank Ronnie and Tony for their talents and contributions and wish them well in the future.

The position of MINISTER of Art is still open. If you are interested in the position, please speak to one of the officers.

In attendance this year were a lot of familiar faces but more importantly we saw a lot of new friends come out to join our ranks! We had three of our sponsoring vendors attend. Mike Marzo from Marzo's MINI rescue, Dani Amorando, from MINI of Allentown, and new vendor Kaz Navavi from Kaz Tire Center came to view what this year had in store.

We ended the day with amazing raffle prizes and a 50/50 drawing. Special thanks to the following for their generous donations towards the raffle prizes: MINI of Allentown, MINI of Mt Laurel, MINI of West Chester, Mike Marzo, M7 Speed, Outmotoring, Randy & Tracy Krapf, Barry Meyer, Charles Wear, Marley Malmsteen, Vicky Leopold's daughter Rebecca Blackwell, Keith & Amanda DuAime, Paul Petrella, Avery Brown and Sean & Sarah Underwood.

Now let's get ready for rallies, dinners, car shows, Auto Cross, parades and lots of friends! Thank you everyone for joining us at the meeting and if you missed it, maybe consider next year?



APRIL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Deborah Alvarez

Mark Anderson

Rob Argila

Heather Baran

Glenn Beaver

Ricardo Carter-Lemos

Caroline Elias

Maryann Gerhart

Lauren Henry

Richard Hicks

Philip Hoffman

Baris Kaymak

Gary Payne

Chuck Pflieger

Lois Row

Ratanaphorn Sarver

Alexandra Smallberger

Avery Smith

Diane Spignesi

Shawn Stanford

Mike Strohmeier

Pamela Wagner

Elizabeth Wickersham

Erik Wurzburger



A big warm motoring welcome to all of the new members this year!! It was great to see so many new faces at the Member's Meeting. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your MINI(s) this really season. Be sure to sign up for the Newbie Rally coming up this month on Saturday, April 13th. Registration is open at www.PhillyMINI.org. We hope you enjoy being a part of PhillyMINI as much as we do!!

Avery – MoM (MINIster of Membership)

Daniella Amorando

Jennifer Belinger

Mark Bentzley

Caroline Elias

Kim Espenschied

Rachel Ewaniuk

Lauren Farese

Lee Fetzer

Maryann GerhartIris

Jenkins

Marissa Krick

Sherri Leabman

Jill Lee

Michael McKeown

Kevin McLemore

Jim Orr

Sheryl Popowitz

Maggie Riccardelli

Chuck Scala

Andrea Snavely

Shawn Stanford

Ryan Tadeo

Eric Trimbur

Jay Yang

Volcano Hot Pot



March's dinner meetup was a unique dining experience hosted by Steph and Mike Marzo at the Volcano Hot Pot restaurant in North Wales, Pa. Featuring Korean cuisine, each diner got to choose their own broth for their personal hot pot, plus there were two Hibachi grills per table. We got to choose from a massive array of meats (pork, beef, chicken, meatballs) and seafood (shrimp, crawfish, mussels, clams), various types of noodles and other "unknown" ingredients for cooking in the hot pot. Skewers of beef, chicken, short ribs and seafood were also available for grilling at the table. Numerous styles of egg and spring rolls and Steph's favorite-old style Chicken McNuggets-were also on the "all you could eat" menu.

Once the proteins were selected, a conveyor belt transported numerous types of vegetables around the room past the tables where we plucked whatever looked tasty as it passed by. Needless to say, nobody went home hungry.

Once again as always, it was a night of delicious food and awesome company with fellow Mini Peeps.



On Saturday March 16th, PhillyMINI participated in the Conshohocken St Patty's Day Parade. This was the club's second year presenting in the parade and it was a grand time. The weather was warm and sunny which brought out thousands of spectators to line the parade route.

PhillyMINI showed off 10 of our finest MINIs including Glen & Patty Beaver's, classic MINI adorned with a giant inflatable leprechaun and bull dog! Prime MINiSTER, Tracy Krapf and her "Irish adjacent" Scottish Terrier, Monty were joined by Junior Ambassador, Sarah Underwood, walking the 2 mile parade route and handing out candy, ducks and club stickers to the cheering crowds. The crowd size had to be some kind of record numbers of attendees. Their enthusiasm carried us the entire length of the route right down to the judges stand. Crowds cheered as PhillyMINI was announced and our cars returned the enthusiasm with cheerful honks of our horns! Always a great time in the parade.

Special thanks once again to Josh and Darci for hosting our pre-parade decorating party and our after parade clean up.

Mini St. Patrick's Tradition

MONTHLY & YUMMY



Join us for an authentic Greek meal at Opa! Specialties like moussaka, pastitsio, souvlaki are on the menu:
<https://zorbasopahatfield.weebly.com/> BYOB

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Time: 6:30PM

Location: Zorba's Opa
2501 Bethlehem Pike (Route 309)
Hatfield, PA 19440

APRIL

2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16		18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30				

13 Newbie Rally

14 Philly SCCA 2024 AutoX #1

17 Social Dinner @ Zorba's Opa

**27 Philly SCCA 2024 Novice SOLO School
Sweets Cafe Cars & Coffee**

28 Philly SCCA 2024 AutoX #2