



PHILLY MINI NAVIGATOR

ISSUE THREE: APRIL 2023



WHAT ELSE IS IN STORE FOR 2023?

- Over 20 events, including rallies, dinner gatherings, car shows, motor shows and parades.
- National Events – MOT, Minis Take Vermont, MINIs on the Dragon, Minis on the MACK and others.
- Continued dedication to charity
- Survey results highlights and how we are answering them

Member Meeting Recap

On Sunday March 19, 2023 we held our Members Meeting to kick off the start of our 2023/24 Motoring Season! This year we changed venues and held the meeting in 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 colors, Green and Platinum. Lots of green and platinum were the theme this year as it is our 20th anniversary year. Emerald green is the traditional color of 20th anniversary and Platinum is the modern-day take of a traditional anniversary gift (china is the more traditional gift).

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- St. Patrick's Day Parade Highlights
- How to Plan a Rally
- Monthly Dinners



April Calendar Winner: Barry Meyer

WE'RE HIRING

Details on Page 7

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LICENSE TO DRIVE

After a hearty meal, our fantastic MINIs-ter of Social Media, Vinnie, broke the ice with a fun interactive and high tech game. Some of the best questions had the room roaring with laughter. I think the biggest cheers came when an almost unanimous vote came back for those of us who “drive 25+ mph over the speed limit in our MINIs”. The most jeers came at the expense of Coke beating Pepsi in this PhillyMINI challenge! I think our MC, Vinnie was fantastic but I wonder if he ever found that “one person”?

Afterwards, Barry declared the election rigged and refused to leave. All in good fun, I called for security to haul him away. It was emotional for me to have Barry hand over the proverbial reigns/microphone as I now stepped into the position of Prime MINIs-ter. “Thank you Barry for everything you did the past 3 years”, just wasn’t enough to say everything I meant to say.

Our presentation this year got a face lift thanks to our new co-Deputy Prime MINIs-ter, Tony Gauker. And if you missed being there this year you missed a heck of a “pre-game” slide show put together by Tony. Not only did it have some of the best and memorable photos from last season, but it also had many years worth of old and modern MINI Cooper commercials, from the very cheeky British commercials to some of the more recents from MINI USA. The room would go silent at times as everyone watched.

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.... Like, we have two new rallies this season, MINIs Drive-ins and Dives, which will take you on a foodie tour of New Jersey but with a cooler car than Guy Fieri, and Red’s Run, which in full Snoopy, Woodstock and the Red Baron fashion will have you zipping around like an Ace! The M&M rally is a new route as well but with a familiar end point and possibly some fun bonus miles after lunch! The Trexlers, last year’s Cooper Cup winners, showed up with a special bonus for the meeting, two t-rex mascots, Junior Ambassadors Olivia Trexler and Sarah Underwood, to rally some enthusiasm for this year’s Cooper Cup. The big headed, short armed T-rexs waddled their way through the room to deliver goodies to participants that answered some MINI trivia. We also announced that some of your old favorite rallies are making a comeback this year too!



*by Tracy Gasdik Krapf
Prime MINIs-ter*

I hope you are all excited for the revival of the Amish County rally, and Night Owl. Survey popular, Covered Bridges and Pagoda Runs will be back this year as well. The Newbee Rally, a PhillyMINI staple, kicks off the driving season in April and we round out the year with other constants like the Union Jack, Quad County Tour of Terror and Deck the MINIs! Let’s not forget that we will be holding another Leader & Sweeper school, two Cars and Coffee events at Sweet’s Cafe, Cars of England show, and the ever popular and fun PhillyMINI BBQ. The biggest news was a full weekend of fun was announced for our big 20th Anniversary Celebration taking place October 6th through 8th.

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. Barry Meyer has transitioned from Prime MINIs-ter to co-Logistics MINIs-ter with Josh. Joe Montante has stepped down from Deputy Prime MINIs-ter to become one of our greatest resources for club history and traditions.

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PhillyMINI Joins St. Patrick's Parade in Conshy

Trying something new this year, on Saturday March 11th, PhillyMINI participated in the Conshohocken St. Patrick's Day Parade. Being our 20th Anniversary year, the officers felt this would be a fun kick off to our motoring season and it certainly was!

Leading up to parade day, the weather forecast was not great. Each passing day gave us a little more hope the parade would continue as planned and true to form on the Thursday before the parade, good old Accuweather predicted clear skies and parade officials declared the parade would "march" on as planned! But as we know, the tried and true curse, wash your MINI and rain will follow, looms from the first drop of soap. We did not escape that curse this year. Saturday morning was a steady drip with wind and a brisk cold. This did not stop us!

Seven MINIs gathered at MINIster, Josh and Darci's house for a warm up with a brunch of coffee, donuts and a delicious fruit

tray. We could not thank Josh and Darci enough for having a warm, dry place to start the day. We tried our best to decorate the cars between rain drops and eventually the weather gave up and we made our way to the start position just a few blocks away. We had our own mini, MINI parade leading to the start point.

We lined up with the bands and other parade entries that were primed for the parade. To say the parade was "well organized" is an understatement. There were parade Marshalls at every block leading up to the start. People directed each group with precision down to a numerical order of how you were appearing in the parade. At the start position the Marshall shook my hand and welcomed me by name before sending us down the street. Three quarters into our route, the judges stand announced our group and told all within earshot, PhillyMINI is celebrating 20 years as a club and how you can find us on the web!

Total parade route was just short

of 3 miles and mostly downhill so the manual transmissions were happy about that. Prime MINIster, Tracy walked the parade route with her Scotties, Monty & Nella, handing out PhillyMINI brag tags, beads, duckies and more. Both were dressed in their Scottish Highland finery. The crowds lining the street were bundled up for the dismal weather but their spirits were incredibly high! We got lots of cheers the whole parade route, especially Glen and Patti in their Classic with the wind-up key on its roof! As we got closer to the judges stand and local taverns, the crowds got more exuberant, I think it was the green beer, and you could feel the electricity in the air.



Continued on Page 11.

Membership Spotlight

Marco A. Ruiz Banegas



How long have you been a member?

Since 2021, so this will be my third year!

How did you hear about PhillyMINI?

I googled "Mini Cooper groups in PA".

What are your MINIs' names?

Ruby :-)

What's your favorite part of being a member?

The community and all the friends I made through the group.

What's your favorite rally? Why?

Amish county rally. Because it is so much fun, and really close to where I live.



Marco with his fiancée, Annika



What's your favorite PhillyMINI memory?

Last year BBQ, it was such a fun time!

What other clubs are you a member? Car- or non-car-related.

None other for the moment.

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

The community and knowledge behind it. I love reading on forums and learning about mods to do.

How do you spend your time outside of PhillyMINI? What other interests do you have? (e.g., sewing, quilting, autocross, cooking, crossfit, etc. Describe your other passions.)

I love soccer, crossfit, video games and working on my Mini.



RECIPE OF GOOD RALLY

So... You want to plan and host a rally. Congratulations! It's a big undertaking and we're behind you all the way.

*by Barry Meyer
Co-MINlster of Logistics*

Here are some simple guidelines to help streamline the process, make it a little less daunting, and help ensure your rally will meet the requirements for a safe but fun time.

Basic Rally Master Rules

You must be a club member for at least one full calendar year before you can host a rally. Why? Because after a year with the club, you will have the opportunity to see what our events are like, the level of detail that goes into planning them, and the types of drivers who make up our membership.

A good place to start the process is to enroll in one of our Leaders/Sweepers schools. This will give you a basic overview of the mechanics of running the actual route on rally day. In fact, we have a school scheduled for Sunday April 30, 2023. After taking the class, you can volunteer to sweep a group and eventually work your way up the leading a rally group.

Route Planning

Many rally masters plan their routes using their GPS software or Google Maps. We recommend using either Garmin Basecamp or My Route App to create a route with turn by turn directions to upload into your GPS (Garmin GPS is the choice of most rallymasters) to help navigate the route during the rally. We also suggest first time rally masters have a navigator, as this will help you safely communicate each turn and any road obstructions (such as bicyclists, pedestrians, pot holes, etc).

If you need help creating your GPX files you can reach out to any PhillyMINI officer who will be more than willing to lend you assistance. We have a number of "orphaned" routes that haven't been run in quite awhile that could be used as a starting point in planning your route. Contact your MINlsters of Logistics for a list of these routes. Or maybe you have a favorite road or roads in your area that would make for a fun driving experience.

Tips for creating a fun rally

Right turns are easier for large groups to navigate. It isn't logistically possible to create a rally route consisting of only right turns, but try to avoid left hand turns at traffic lights, when crossing major roadways, and where visibility is low. Look for spots where the group can re-queue safely if and when necessary.

Once you have established a route enlist your fellow MINlacs to join you on a "dry run", try to include a few well seasoned ralliers and rallymasters. Having several drivers that know the route and are spaced throughout the pack, reduces the number of times the group needs to re-queue and helps ease the anxiety when non MINlacs slow the group pace. Not only can they help you feel more at ease, but they can help promote your rally with a glowing recommendation!!

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Happy

Birthday

Avery Smith
Deborah Alvarez
Steven Shenk
Katie Bentley
Alexandra Smallberger
Richard Hicks
Joel Douglas
Baris Kaymak
Joe D'Alessandro
Athena Basu
Philip Hoffman
Mark Anderson
Glenn Beaver
Heather Baran
Rob Argila
Elizabeth
Wickersham
Ricardo Carter-Lemos
Diane Spignesi
Lauren Henry
Ratanaphorn Sarver
Chuck Pflieger
Pamela Wagner
Erik Wurzbarger
Gary Payne
Lois Row

MINISTER OF ART

We're looking for a artistically talented club member to take on this role.

ARE YOU
CREATIVE AND
LOVE ART?

ARE YOU
GOOD WITH
COMPUTERS?

CAN YOU
VISUALLY
TRANSLATE A
CONCEPT?

DO YOU
LIKE HELPING
PEOPLE?

If interested, see Tracy or Ronnie.



Have you ever looked at those cool PhillyMINI clings and thought, “Hey! I can do that!”? If so, have we got an opportunity for you!

PhillyMINI is looking for a current, active member to be our new MINister of Art! This talented individual will create a variety of fun graphics to support PhillyMINI and represent our spirit of motoring.

If interested, send us an email at questions@phillymini.org. Show us your style and include a sample cling or artwork portfolio with your inquiry.

What does the MINister of Art do?

This role is responsible for:

- Design the annual membership cling and badge graphics
- Brainstorm and collaborate with our rally masters to bring their cling visions to life
- Create banner graphic ideas for our social channels and PhillyMINI.org
- Creating ad hoc graphics for swag and miscellaneous club projects

Skills:

- An eye for composition and use of color
- A talent for creating eye-catching graphics that clear communicate a message
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Organized with attention detail
- Experience creating vector and high-resolution digital graphics a bonus

Note: Most of the design work is completed between November – January



Joe will stay on as a consultant and be forever known as MINiSTER Emeritus and MINiSTER of Flair. Thank you Joe for continuing to support the current officers in keeping with the PhillyMINI traditions. Our MINiSTER of Art, Michael Attiani has decided to step down as an officer and his position is now open. The officers are in the process of interviewing people to fill the position and hope to have the position filled later in April. Moving into the Deputy Prime MINiSTER roll are two amazing people, Ronnie and Tony Gauker. Tracy Krapf, hey that's me, has transitioned from Deputy Prime MINiSTER into Prime MINiSTER for the next three years.

Heart felt tributes to Michael, Barry and Joe were made during the presentation and everyone had the opportunity to sign memorabilia for them prior to leaving the meeting. A huge thank you to Michael Attiani, for designing and drawing tributes to Barry and Joe which depicted their MINIs and some extra cheddar on each picture that made you KNOW it was their car!

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! Also, as one of the questions in the ice breaker asked, we had 2 members that have been with PhillyMINI from its inception, 20 years ago! We had two of our sponsoring vendors attend. Mike Marzo from Marzo's MINI rescue, fielded live questions from so many people he could barely take a step. Clint Peters, from MINI of Allentown, showed up in a brand new, Nanuk White, JCW Convertible! I think I saw a few people sitting in that driver's seat considering their next MINI!



We ended the day with amazing raffle prizes and a 50/50 drawing benefiting our 20th anniversary celebration and charities. Special thanks to the following for their generous donations towards the raffle prizes: MINI of Allentown, MINI of Mt Laurel, Avery Brown, Joycelyn Reynolds, Barry Meyer, Bill Rhodes, Josh Markovitz, Marley Marmelstein, Cynthia Leteff, Marco Ruiz Banegas, Randy & Tracy Krapf, Sarah Underwood, and Marzo's MINI Rescue.

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?



ON THE MENU



March Dinner @ Bone Fish Grill

It was a small but fun group at the March Get Together Dinner at the Bone Fish Grill in Langhorne, Pa on Wednesday March 8th . As always. good food and conversation with fellow PhillyMINI members.

Do you have a favorite eatery and want to host a dinner? It's easy , pick a place, contact one of the PhillyMINI officers to schedule a date , post the details in the U Plan It section of the Forums, get a headcount and then make a reservation.



Jo Cancelliere-Small

March 13 at 10:16 AM · 🌐

Please register on website so I can get a headcount..

Join your fellow PhillyMINI adventurers for April international dinner at an awesome Mexican restaurant in Exton, PA.

Date: Wednesday April 12, 2023

Where: Taco Maya

Time: 6:00pm

Location: 250 Eagleview Blvd, Exton, PA 19341

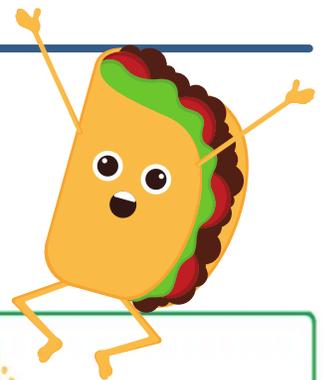
<https://www.taco-maya.com/>

Cost: \$\$ - cafeteria style ordering, so pay as you order!

Headcount needed by April 10, 2023

Personal recommendation is the Taco bowl!!!

Hosts: Ray & Jo Small



from *Recipe of a Good Rally* on Page 5

When scheduling your rally always check local websites for local major tourism events races or events involving bicycles or runners. While we can't always anticipate these events and traffic detours, we do try to avoid them if possible.

Run the route one last time a week before the rally is scheduled. Surprise road closures, maintenance, potholes and other obstructions can cause last minute route revisions and its always good to have one last and recent glance.

Rally Announcement

Once all the hard work of planning the rally is done and it has been placed on the event calendar, it's time to make the announcement to the club members.

You will be contacted by a PhillyMINI officer approximately three weeks before the scheduled date to provide the following information:

1. Date, start time and starting location
2. Estimated time of the rally
3. Endpoint-IE: park, restaurant, etc
4. A few paragraphs describing your rally. Check past event announcements on the Forum for guidelines
5. Any special notes such as bathroom facilities at the start and mid point
6. Any items participants should bring: full tank of gas, FRS radios, cash for clings and buttons and lunch

Rally Clings and Buttons

All rallies have a unique theme and the rally master will be asked to create a design reflecting that theme. The MINIster of Art can assist you in creating your rally cling



"Have Fun! Planning a rally is a blast and few things are better than ending a day with your fellow MINI peeps who are thrilled to be together and enjoy a fun day of driving."

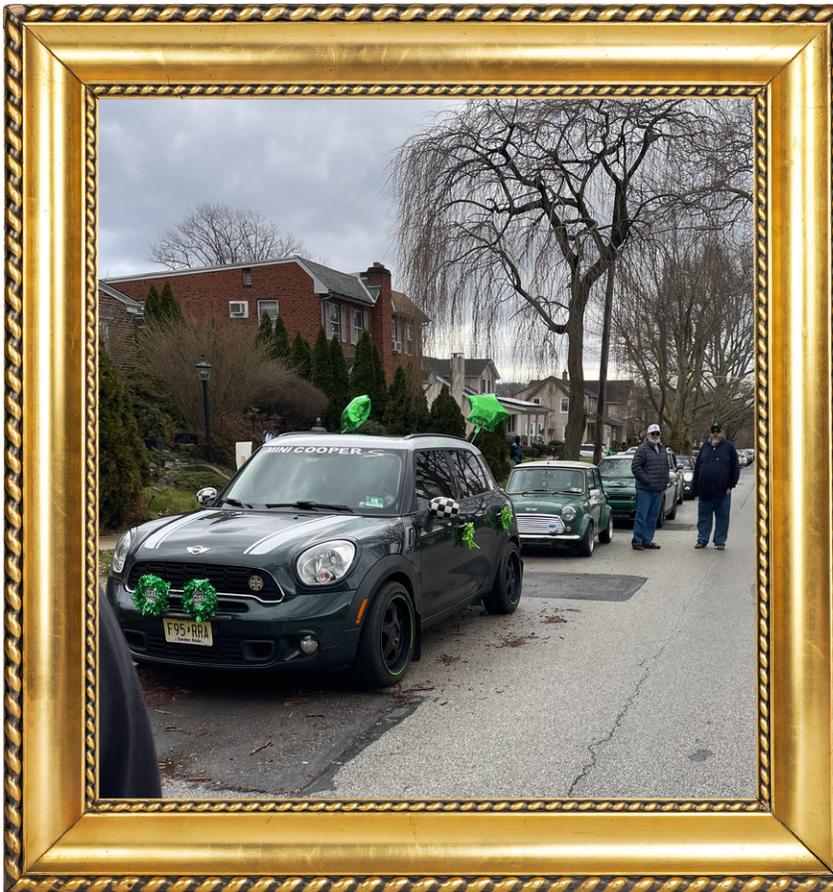
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from Conshy Parade on Page 3

Great day for a parade! Everyone had a lot of fun waving and showing off our MINIs. We are planning to do it again next year. Hopefully we have more participants next parade and a few more walkers to get word out about our great club!



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April

2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 	13	14	15 
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 
23 	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 						

APRIL SCHEDULE

Philly SCCA 2023 AutoX #1	2
April Dinner: Taco Maya	12
Cars & Coffee	15
Newbie Rally	22
Philly SCCA 2023 AutoX #2	23
Leaders & Sweepers School	30