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## Newbie Rally Recap

The Newbee Rally was held on Saturday April 22, 2023. The week leading up to the Newbee rally was not looking good, but the weather pulled through and we had sunshine and comfortable temperatures all day. A few rally-goers were concerned with the impending storms and we hope everyone was able to make it home before the weather hit.

We did a quick round robin and introduced all our newest members and the officers that were in attendance. We were so pleasantly surprised this year to have such a large group of "freshmen" coming into the club. Many seasoned PhillyMINI members were in attendance as well and helped welcome our newcomers! After introductions, Tracy told everyone the touching story of why the rubber ducky is given out by MINI owners worldwide and at our rallies. Newbees were treated to their first duck and a pin commemorating their very first rally!

***Newbees were treated to their first duck and a pin commemorating their very first rally!***

Afterwards, we went over rules of the road, how to perform a Le Mans start, and other club safety reminders. Last call "PB4UGO" was given at 10:50AM and we all prepared ourselves and the MNIs for the start of motoring season! The "bleeps" were heard all around as radios clicked on and were tested before the engines started.



*Continued on Page 2.*



# LICENSE TO DRIVE



*by Tracy Gasdik Krapf  
Prime MINiSter*



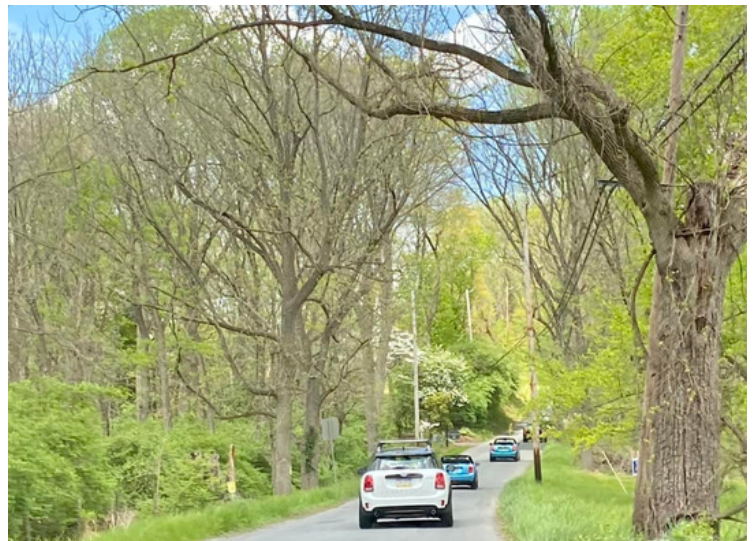
Group 1, lead by Prime MINiSter Tracy and MINiSter of Technology Greg as the sweeper, lined up at 11AM and started the rally. The twisty roads lead us through some beautiful spring scenery.

Convertible drivers were treated to some extra sun (ask my forehead) and the smell of flowers in the air! We had several opportunities to practice our rally rules when cars got cut off at traffic lights or we had non-MINI vehicles join our ranks. We even had an extra MINI jump in line but thankfully it was at the back so no one accidentally followed the wrong vehicle.

Group 2, lead by MINiSter of Logistics Barry and Deputy Prime MINiSters Ronnie and Tony as the sweeper, started 15 minutes after Group 1 departed. After their bonus social time, they got to chase after Group 1's lead. Group 2 also got excellent teaching opportunities during the rally and I even heard they had an opportunity to test the Le Mans start! It was great hearing the stories afterwards and how the explanation of Le Mans start finally "clicked" when they got to test drive the theory.

The rally day ended at World of Beer in Exton and everyone had a marvelous lunch, mingling and chatting about the roads and events of the day. WOB did a great job accommodating the club and taking care of 30 hungry MINiLacs. Even the weather cooperated right through lunch! It was wonderful to hear so many of the Newbees commenting about how they "found their people" and "are looking forward to the next drive"! The club and I welcome you all and cannot wait to see you at the next event!

This is just the start to a fantastic year of events planned by the officers. Happy 20th Motoring Year PhillyMINi!





# PhillyMINI Members Participate in Philly SCCA 2023 Novice SOLO School

## MINI drivers learned new skills and fell in love with the sport

*By Shawn and Abbie Trexler*

Three MINI drivers converged on a sea of Miatas, Nissans, Supras, and more at the Warminster Park airfield for the 2023 Philly Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) Novice SOLO School on April 22, 2023.

Michael Pace attended with his 2019 F55. Abbie Trexler brought her 2009 R57 and Shawn Trexler arrived driving his 2004 R53, which unfortunately lost power steering during the trip there. Luckily, Abbie's car was up to the task of handling double the runs.

The morning started with a thorough safety inspection of the vehicles. No loose items inside the car, a secure battery, wheel bearings in good shape, working brakes, etc. This was followed by a check that the driver's helmets had the proper certifications, with spare helmets provided for those who needed them.

After inspections, there was an outdoor classroom session where drivers were taught the basics of car handling, braking and acceleration dynamics, and corner apexes with various approach methods.

The drivers were then grouped based on whether their cars were FWD, RWD or AWD, and paired off in groups of two drivers with an instructor who was experienced in that drive type. PhillyMINI's own MINister of Logistics, Josh Markovitz, was one of the instructors who specializes in FWD, and Shawn and Abbie were the fortunate students who spent the day learning from him.

*Continued on Page 8*





# Membership Spotlight

## Patti & Glenn Beaver

### How long have you been a member?

2023 is our 5th year of membership.

### How did you hear about PhillyMINI?

A friend of Patti's mentioned it to her and that started the ball rolling.

### What are your MINIs' names?

Okay, this may take a while. We'll start with Patti's. Sheldon - 2019 Clubman. Princess Charlotte - 2023 JCW convertible. That's a start. There isn't enough room to name the other 6.

### What's your favorite part of being a member?

We love the friends we've made over the years.

### What's your favorite rally? Why?

I can't name a particular rally because any rally with the appropriate number of twisties is a favorite.

### What's your favorite PhillyMINI memory?

Meeting Vinnie.

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

SCCA, BMW-CCA

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

Each of our Minis have their own character adding to their uniqueness.

### 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.)

Auto racing, anything with 4 wheels and a motor. Traveling to said auto racing in our motorhome towing a MINI. Golf.



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# Happy *Birthday*

Marianne Pontano  
Sandra Gourley  
Christine Ebert  
Jarek Ostrowski  
Mathew Patrick  
Andrew Bugosh  
Ian Ratcliffe  
Tonya Lobb  
Vinnie Funelas  
Kathleen Scullion  
Nicholle Bilodeau  
Patty Penglase  
Gary Adlersberg  
Gordon Bates  
JoAnne Small  
Joshua Markovitz





# More than 20 MINIs Chose Pastries over Rain



April 15th we held the first of two Cars and Coffee events for the year. Our club sponsor, Sweet's Cafe welcomed us back for the 2023 season with caffeine, tasty pastries and breakfast sandwiches. My personal favorite has to be the fresh danish and chocolate croissants.

Whatever your preference, there was plenty to choose from even delicious Gluten Free options. 21 bright and shiny MINIs showed up with their owners, eager for some MINI conversation. I was the first MINI to arrive to help welcome everyone and I was met by Sweet's owner who enthusiastically exclaimed **"Yay! The MINIs are here!"** It's so much fun having a car that evokes those feelings and smiles.

Speaking of that, we had patrons checking out our cars and envying our rides. We even had a past MINI owner stop to reminisce about the ride she used to love. "Hmmm maybe a future member?" I asked. "Come back to the fun side." I added with a chuckle.

As cars passed, it was obvious we stood out. We saw heads turn as they passed the parking lot and we even saw a stray MINI do a double take and point. We were hoping they would come back to check out what was happening but instead someone in a non-MINI vehicle came over to say hello and let us know they had a MINI at home. Members scrambled to get them a brag tag and welcome them to the group. We hope they join us, perhaps they are even reading this now.

Oh yeah lets talk weather... it was crap... but 21 MINIs didn't care and we had a great time catching up and getting excited for this year's rallys. If you missed this event, we have another coming in September. Please note, we are not perfect.

If you received a rally calendar at the member meeting or in the mail, the date for the next Cars & Coffee event at Sweet's is Saturday, September 23, 2023.



# 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?

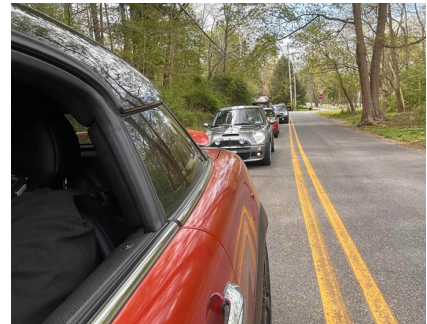
DO YOU  
LIKE HELPING  
PEOPLE?

If interested, see Tracy or Ronnie.



*There were two misprints on the schedule that was sent out in 2023 packets. Covered Bridge should be august 12 and Cars and coffee is sept 23.*

## NEWBEE RALLY



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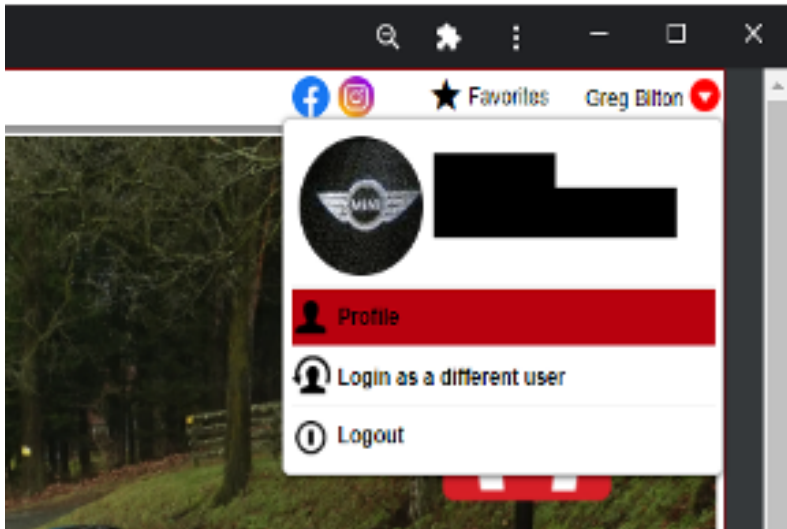
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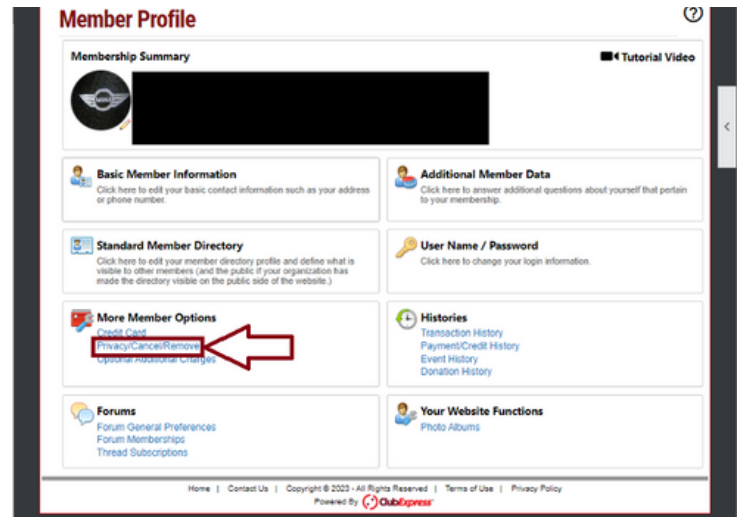
# SUBSCRIBE TO UPDATES

Did you know we send this newsletter and other 20th anniversary information via email? (if you do already then you can skip this article) If you don't then you should think about getting our emails, we don't send too many. Here is how to turn on emails from us. Trust us we won't send out spam or sell your information to anyone. Go to [www.PhillyMINI.org](http://www.PhillyMINI.org) and follow the steps below!

1. Click on your name at the top of the page; click PROFILE



2. Under more member options click PRIVACY/ CANCEL/ REMOVE



by Greg Bilton  
MINIster of Technology

## AutoX from Page 3

Drivers then participated in a course walk with their instructors, who taught drivers the ins and outs of course design, the meaning of various cone configurations and how to most effectively walk a course in preparation for driving.

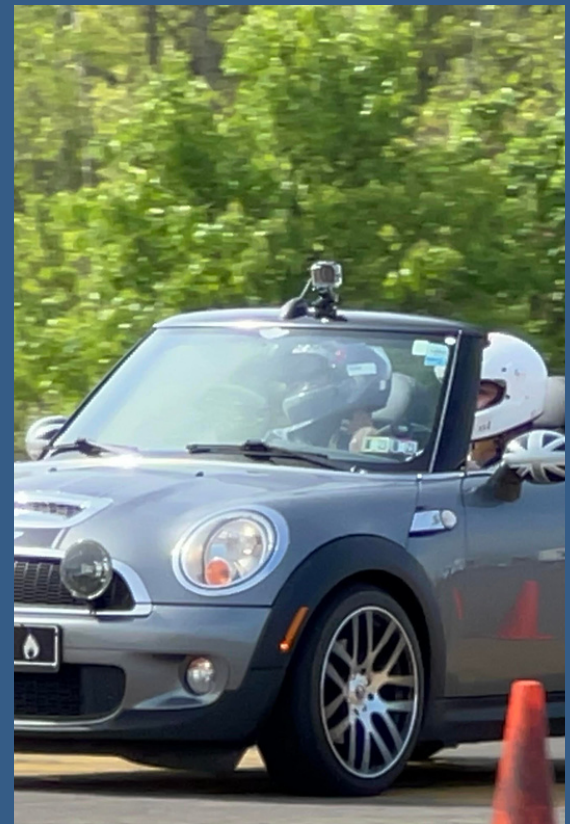
While half the participants worked as cone setters and course marshals, the other half drove. After 6 to 8 runs they switched roles. This allowed everyone equal time behind the wheel.

The first course of the day was a figure 8, which taught drivers to get up to speed quickly and make wide, sweeping turns. The second course was a slalom which consisted of a series of cones set in a straight line through which drivers wove their cars in and out, followed by some offset gates, providing drivers with

plenty of practice on rapid changes of direction. Students each took their first run, then switched seats with the instructor, who drove the course at a quick speed to demonstrate the ability of the car and how to most efficiently drive the course. This was inspiring and a great confidence builder for the timid novices. Students then had the chance to complete the remaining runs on course with their new found inspiration.

After completing both courses, lunch was provided. It was a great time to meet other drivers and instructors with lots of car talk and camaraderie.

After lunch the final full course was set. It included a series of the elements students had practiced in the morning. Following a walk of the



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## ON THE MENU



### April Dinner @ Taco Maya



### May Dinner @ the Butcher and Barkeep



The Butcher and Barkeep is committed to supporting our local community by partnering with local farmers, brewers, and distilleries. It highlights these offerings in our ever changing food and drink menus. Its menu offers enlightened comforts with a nod to the south. Focusing on fresh seafood, vegetables and meat. Vegan, vegetarian and gluten sensitive items are always available. It strives to keep its menu fresh with an ever changing board of nightly specials featuring flatbreads, mussels, wings, cheese and charcuterie.



# MAY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	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	31	<b>11. Anniversary Planning Committee Meeting</b> <b>13. MINIs Dives &amp; Diners</b> <b>18. Dinner Social, Hosted by Tracy Krapf</b> <b>20. Reds's Run</b>		

## AutoX from Page 8

new course, drivers were able to get four or five timed laps in, which was a great opportunity to see their progress over each run. Many drivers shaved seconds off their time (which matters when the course time is half of a minute) over each of their afternoon runs.

Learning the limits of the car was eye-opening and confidence boosting. The timing difference between those very slow morning practice runs on the figure 8 to the revving engines and squealing tires of the afternoon full course was staggering!

“The SCCA Novice School was a great way to better understands and test the limits of your car,” fellow

PhillyMINI member Michael Pace toldus. “My instructor Tony taught me many valuable lessons. I hope I will not be charged extra for crushing a few cones!”

While most participants may have had some initial trepidation about driving in this event, not having any racing experience going into it, they found that everyone was very supportive and friendly, helping those early fears quickly subside. The instructors were patient and encouraging, and they catered their teaching to meet each person’s stated goals for the class. If you enjoy driving quickly on twisty roads, want to understand your car’s capabilities, and become a better driver, autocross

definitely checks all the boxes.

Thanks again to Josh and everyone at Philly SCCA for their time and efforts! The 2024 Novice School date and registration link will be posted to the PhillyMINI Facebook page when it has been set.



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