



Calendar Spotlight: David Lugo

Members' BBQ at Sky Manor Airport



Over-Under on when Vinnie Passes Out?

Is it August already? Many of you know what that means! Juicy burgers. Delicious hot dogs. Plentiful potluck. Cold drinks. Catching up with old friends. Making new ones. (Guessing Vinnie's Annual Passing Out in Public would also be correct.)

These are the ingredients that make an amazing gathering at Vinnie and Rob's house in Pittstown, New Jersey! This year, we start at 3pm on August 26th and does not end, even if Vinnie passes out. This event is rain or shine! Feel free to bring lawn chairs or a pop-up tent! Pets are welcome!

"It's our pleasure to host the BBQ, which has evolved over the years," Vinnie said. "But what is always consistent is everyone having a good time."

Flame Grillin' on Page 13

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PHILLYMINI



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ON THE MENU

MINIs and Meat Sweats @ Embers Smokehouse & Tap

*by Ronnie Gauker
Deputy PrimeMINIster*

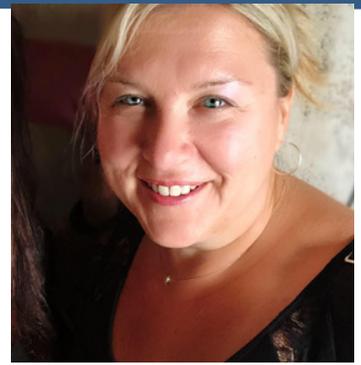


PhillyMINI showed up in number for the July dinner at Embers Smokehouse and Tap in Chalfont, PA. Hosted by Deputy Prime MINIsters Tony and Ronnie Gauker, the group was shown to their “lane” of seating in the restaurant, which ran from the front of the house to the back by the kitchen.

Members new and old engaged in conversation and camaraderie, sharing photos and stories of their MINIs. Then the southern-inspired comfort food began to appear. Platters of deviled eggs, “garbage can tots” and bacon-wrapped jalapeno poppers delighted palates, then the main courses arrived. Mile-high burgers, mountains of fried chicken and

waffles along with Embers’ signature barbequed meats and mac ‘n cheese were delivered to eager diners. Faster than a Monte Carlo start, everyone got busy and soon, a hush fell on the crowd until nothing was left of dinner but smiles and several take home containers.

In typical fashion, the Gaukers had prepared bonus miles – a trip to OWowCow, a local ice cream shop housed in an old fire house next to a cemetery. The gastronomically intrepid continued on to enjoy a variety of locally-sourced flavors and share some more laughs with their fellow MINIacs.



by Tracy Krapf
PrimeMINister

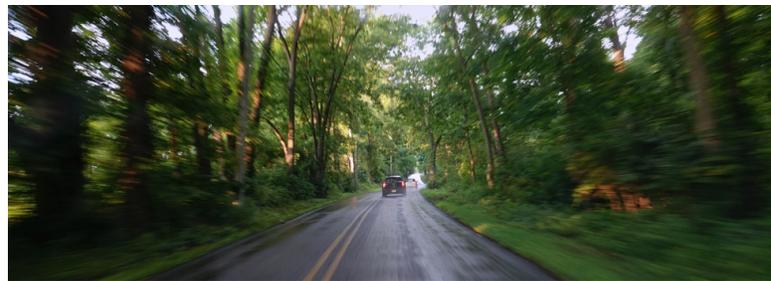
THE OWL FLIES AT NIGHT

The Night Owl rally was held Saturday July 8th. It was a hot summer evening as everyone gathered in Downingtown but 18 MINIs showed their enthusiasm. The impending weather did leave a few last minute drop outs that didn't want to "chance it".

Its been a few years since this writer last participated in the Night Owl rally. My last Night Owl was held in the late fall and that particular evening, we ran the gamut of weather disturbances. First a storm blew out all the lights at the start of the rally. Then while driving, rain and wind had us dodging more debris than traffic. I seem to recall huge green Hedge Apples falling on top of the cars with loud thuds. That rally ended in a snow storm and I drove home, without dinner, through a "Star Wars-like" movie setting of snow flying past the car.

The weather reports this year had me wondering if I was the curse. Group 1 had a fantastic first leg weaving in and out of the twisted Night Owl roads. Leader Ron Lobb made sure his group had a great time with the roads he put together. Also worth noting were the amazing treats Ron and his wife, Tonya brought for the group to enjoy before the rally.

I was sweeping Group 2 and we got stuck in some torrential down pours. The puddles, road debris and pounding rain slowed us just a bit. It rained so hard at times, you could barely hear the messages over the FRS radios. Group 2 still had a marvelous time following leader David Lugo and no one was lost despite the weather related



challenges. But I think I've been banned from participating next time (hahaha).

On leg two both groups got a reprieve from the weather. Group 2 even marveled at a double rainbow brightly shining over their cars as they sped along the remaining route.

The rally ended as the sun set for the evening and beautiful hues of the orange summer sky cast a warm glow on a great evening of driving. PJ Whelihan's was our end point and everyone had a great time talking over drinks and dinner.

And the Cooper Cup 2023 winners are...



Saturday July 22, 2023 was a fantastic day for a friendly competition. The PhillyMINI tradition of the Cooper Cup started with a roar this year. As some of you may recall at the Members' Meeting, two T-rex's showed up to drum up enthusiasm for this year's Cooper Cup. The Cooper Cup is not a normal driving rally. It is a diabolical twist to a scavenger hunt, with lots of great roads, incredible views and plenty of fun and challenging extras. This year's Cooper Cup was all of that and more.



The event began in Schnecksville, PA and from the start we were turning heads! Prime MINlster Tracy, navigator for team Kitty Hawk (driver Mike Marzo) showed her team spirit by going blue... yes blue hair! Mike was heard exclaiming "What the heck did you do?!" No worries its temporary. We also had our very first Electric MINI participate! Ray and his wife, spent the night in Allentown prior to the event making sure their E-MINI was charged and ready to rally. Also, several cars passed by admiring the group and two of them were MINIs! Both owners wondered what we were up to and we gave them a run down of the day's event as well as welcomed them to join the Facebook page in hopes they would eventually join us for club events and becoming members.



Last year's winners, Shawn and Abbie Trexler, put together a group of fun twisty roads with lots of challenging questions for the first leg of the journey. Some highlights of the first leg were driving through the Jordan Creek at the Lehigh Valley Zoo and taking a selfie with the accomplishment behind us. Another twist to the first leg was there were two places along the route where you had to find a numbered sign and get out of the car to see the answer on the back of the sign. The first sign had a cute kitty in a MINI but the second sign had us in stitches even before we reached the sign! This year's answer key was in the form of multiple choice answers. As we were looking for sign number 13, a quick glance over the multiple choice answers had our own names as well as other members/officers of PhillyMINI.

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Happy
Birthday



Gay Abbot
Patricia Ascheman
William Ascheman
Pedro Cancel
Tony Gauker
Samuel Hasman
Dan Houston
Barry Meyer
Michael Milliron
Diane Nolfe
Scott Schurman
Marilyn Tontoni
Sarah Underwood
Donna Zimmerman

NEW MEMBERS THIS SEASON

Dan Houston
Kevin Emes
Eric Zwirnmann
Marianne Pontano
Sandra Gourley
Marisa Brittingham
Wendy Reside
Patricia Beaver

Mary Cook
Avery Smith
Jonathan Ryan
Abdul Delati
Nathan Rudzenski
Larry Gelb
Deborah Alvarez
William Ebert
Kay Henderson

Jeffrey Wieder
Sanjeev Arjungi
Mike Strohmeyer
Samuel Hasman
Andrea Silver
Anthony Navitskis
Christine Ebert
Clint Peters

We are midway through the 2023 rally season! We've got lots to be excited, including a new Prime MINlster, great rallies and wonderful non-driving social events. We're also celebrating the 20th anniversary of the club! We want to welcome all the new members this year! Some have been part of this journey, left and returned; while others are brand new to the club. No matter how you found us, we are glad that you did! Our club doesn't exist without all of our members and our success is measured by how much we grow and evolve!

From Page 5



I laughed out loud when I saw my own name and said “oh no! One of our faces is on the next clue”. So who was there to greet us? MINlster of Social Media, Vinnie in is best Cinco de Mayo costume, consuming a taco! Best Cooper Cup answer ever! Even though Vinnie wasn't there, you took one look at that photo and could imagine his infectious laugh.

The first leg ended at the Trexler homestead with the Trexler family handing out leg 2 clues, snacks and refreshments. The clock was ticking so we had to keep moving!

Leg 2 had the group randomly separated into two routes/groups. You were either in group Velociraptor or group Unicorn. Team velociraptor had to “Roar” at every passing car and team unicorn had to “Neigh”. We were warned there were spies watching so we better comply or suffer the point consequences. As part of the velociraptor group, we had a hysterical time “roaring” out the window at passing cars. I think we even scared a few people.

The twists and turns lead us to the end point for lunch atop a mountain vista that the Appalachian Trail traverses. Thunderhead Lodge was a beautiful end to a fantastic Cooper Cup. As we shared stories of the day we could not help but laugh at some of the crazy things that happened over the course of the Cooper Cup. Sean Underwood and navigator Sarah had an extra adventure when they missed a turn and ended up half way across the Lehigh Valley at Dorney Park! Once back on track, I heard Sean say they had to go through the Jordan Creek three times!! Did they miss clues? Or just wanted to have some fun?

At Thunderhead Lodge, the highly competitive teams boasted confidence in their answers while we waited for the tabulated results. We even had a MINI party crasher who has since joined our Facebook Group! Before lunch was served, we could not wait any longer for the results! Shawn assured us the auditing team of

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Membership Spotlight Cynthia LeTeff



How long have you been a member?

Since 2019.

How did you hear about PhillyMINI?

From my friend David Lugo.

What are your MINIs' names?

Countryman Winnie and roadster Betty.

What's your favorite rally? Why?

My favorite rally is the covered bridges I just love seeing all the bridges and the landscape is beautiful. I am working on a U-plan-it rally in my area a drive along the Susquehanna river in York and Lancaster county's it's a 2 hour drive without stops. We shall see !

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

I have Michael Att's JCW steering wheel on my roadster now !!



What's your favorite PhillyMINI memory?

Is all the guys changing my tire on my Roadster at Vinnie's PhillyMINI BBQ last year. What a great way to end a bad day friends and laughs and hugs 😊

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

Just busy with my Art and pottery classes right now. For the last 16 years, every summer I volunteer and teach water aerobics in my community and help seniors with their mobility. Now I am one, lol

How do you spend your time outside of PhillyMINI?

Swimming, art, all kinds painting, pottery, visiting museums and cars. I love drag racing. I would love to travel more.



AutoX Midseason Update

Welcome to AutoX



by Josh Markovitz
Co-MINister of Logistics

Some of you may have noticed that I tend to go on and on about autocross and may be wondering what it is. To sum it up, it is a timed driving competition to see who can get their car through an obstacle course made up of traffic cones the quickest. Nothing special is required to participate, as helmets are provided, and all you need is a car in good mechanical shape. These events occur anywhere in a large paved area—typically stadium and mall parking lots, sometimes airports. Events usually take place on Sundays and are finished by 4 pm. At most events, you will get one session to drive and one session where you have to work. Each driving session is equivalent to six to ten runs on the course. If you are new, the work assignment usually involves picking up cones the competitors hit.

This is my fourth season in autocross and I have had more fun, and met so many fantastic people, like PhillyMINI, that it keeps me coming back. Plus, what I have learned about my cars and my driving ability has saved my tuchus more times than I can count out on the road. I can not recommend it enough!

Maybe you want to give this autocross thing a try and are not sure where to start. You can always message me on Facebook, Isy Vibes or email me at IsyPhillyMINI@gmail.com, and I will help you, or consider the following steps.

Most important to keep in mind, have fun, and don't take it too seriously! You will get to talk to lots of people, see some awesome cars, and witness some outstanding drivers.

If you are ready to give it a shot, the next two events are on August 5th and 6th at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. Register here: [Philly SCCA Event](#)

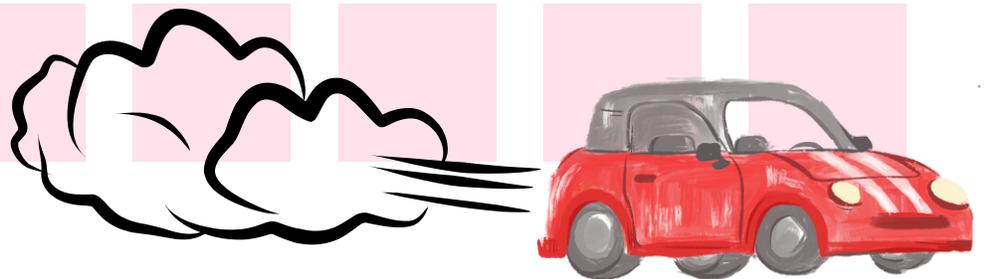
Average Autocross day:

1. Find an event: Go to <https://www.motorsportreg.com/calendar/> and filter the results by event type and distance you are willing to travel.
2. Register for the event. You will be asked what class and pax when registering for the event. If this is your first event, you will pick the novice class, and unless your car is highly modified, you can get away with picking D Street pax.
3. Show up to the event by 7:30 so you have plenty of time to get ready:
 - Empty your car of everything that is not secure. This can be everything from floor mats to loose change in the cup holder. It is best to play it safe and remove everything that is not tied down, as things will go flying when you hit the course.

AUGUST

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	31		



- 4 - 5 **MINIs on the Mack**
- 12 **Covered Bridges**
- 15 **Dinner at The Dutch Tavern**
- 26 **Members' Annual BBQ @ Sky Manor Airport**



Price Waterhouse Cooper tabulated each team's scores down to the last second of drive time.

Congratulations to all the teams that participated but here are the note worthy accolades:

First place:

Allie Sasik-Driver, Patrick Nelson-Navigator

Second place:

Mike Marzo-Driver, Tracy Krapf-Navigator

Third place:

Ray Rizzuto-Driver, Andrea Rizzuto-Navigator

Dead Last: Sean Underwood-Driver, Sarah Underwood-Navigator

Best of the Rest went to:

Jarek Ośtrowski - Best Driver

Andrea Rizzuto - Best Navigator

Tracy Krapf - Best Selfie



The winners of the 2023 Cooper Cup, Allie and Patrick, are now responsible to plan next year's event and they get the HUGE Cooper Cup trophy to carry around all year boasting of their accomplishments.



We hope you join us next year for Cooper Cup 2024. Over the past years, the Cooper Cup has earned the title of "divorce maker". This is not the case. It can be challenging at times but it is a fun and creative way to get out and drive. If you don't answer the questions, you can easily follow along the route and have a fun and lighthearted drive followed by some good stories and great food/drinks after the day is done. And just maybe if you are the worst of the worst... OK it's not that bad.. You will still get an award. Its "Dead Last" but, hey it can be displayed proudly for all to see and you can say "I was there!"



by Vinnie Funelas
MINister of Social Media

FLAME GRILLIN'

Vinnie and Robby will take care of the BBQ basics: Burgers, hot dogs and the regular fixings. Everyone is welcome to bring an appetizer, dessert or another BBQ staple! There's a Google Doc to sign up what you'll be bringing to ensure no duplicates (e.g., 10 people bringing potato salad). Scroll down to find different sections of fare. If there's no space, right-click and Add a Row Below: POT LUCK DOC.

Please register at I AM FLIPPING BURGERS WITH VINNIE.

This is a member-only event. Dogs, pop-up tents and coolers are welcome!



Social Dinners



Join us for dinner at the Dutch Cottage Tavern in Skippack for some good ol' comfort food. The wings are amazing with 20+ sauces to choose from, how will you ever decide? And even more beer selections. And if wings and beer aren't your thing, it's TACO TUESDAY!! Don't forget the margaritas!

Date: Tuesday, August 15th

Time: 6 PM

Where: The Dutch Tavern, 1264 Bridge Road, Skippack PA 19473

<https://www.thedutchcottagetavern.com/>

We will have reserved space on the deck, so please register at phillymini.org by August 9th



X-man from page 10.

- Put your number and class on your car. You can do this with painter's tape. If you registered as a novice in D Street and your number is 5, you will put 5 NDS on each side of your car. The number has to be roughly 8 inches tall, and the class letters 4 inches.
- Go to the registration table and check in.
- Take your car to tech inspection. Tech inspection is basic. Tech checks the following thing. Tires are not chorded or bubbled, wheel bearings have no play, no fluids are leaking, brakes work, and the throttle does not hang when the gas pedal is pressed.



4. Walk the course. Every event has a novice course walk by an experienced competitor to help explain how to drive through it. It is helpful if you have time to walk the course before the novice walk to get a basic understanding of it. Walk up to anybody you see walking it and ask if you can tag along. Autocrossers are some of the most helpful people around and will always say yes.



5 Once all that is complete, you can just sit back and watch until it is your time to drive or work. Events are divided into heats, and you will be told what heats you drive and work as well as what your work assignment is.

6. When it is your turn to drive, you will put your car into grid, and people will direct you where to go. Put your hazards on, as this will signify that you would like an instructor to ride along with you. You can have an instructor for as many runs as you want, and it is highly recommended to take advantage of this.

ESTABLISHED IN 2003



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