



Calendar Spotlight: Bill Rhodes

## PhillyMINI + Preston & Steve Campout *Equals 9,738 Pounds of Donated Food*

As in years past, PhillyMINI participated in the WMMR Preston & Steve's Camp Out for Hunger on November 12, 2023. The PRE-event car show, called Phil-a-Trunk, is now in its 5th year and is held on the Sunday before the actual week long Camp-Out event. Car clubs from all over the Philadelphia/Delaware Valley area converge on the XFinity Live and Wells Fargo Center for coffee, cars and a lot of good will. This year they combined the Phil-a-Trunk event with Mainline Cars and Coffee for an epic gathering of cars, trucks, jeeps and of course MINI's.

PhillyMINI showed up with 13 MINIs filled with non-perishable canned and dry goods as well as a generous cash donation all thanks to gifts from club members during the 20th Anniversary weekend and from

other private donations throughout the year.

The city was buzzing with engines as we approached the XFinity Live center! Once we parked in the designated MINI Cooper spaces, there was a lot to do while waiting to drop off our food donations. Several members unloaded their donations into other MINIs and took a shot at the Fun Laps Autocross set up in the adjacent parking lot. Seasoned Autocross member, Josh Markovitz, helped Avery Brown in her first ever autocross course. Tonya Lobb took a few hot laps riding passenger with Paul Petrella as he navigated the Autocross course. Unfortunately the crowds were too much and they had to shut the autocross course down early.

This year there was a two piece



band playing music for everyone. They were perched on top of box truck and had an ample crowd of people gathered below listening. In the Mainline Cars and Coffee lot/Wells Fargo Center parking lot there was a line of food trucks with everything from coffee to popcorn and even BBQ.

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## MINIS & MOTORSPORTS



by Barry Meyer

# PhillyMINI at New Jersey Motorsports Park

On Saturday November 4, Micheal Pace and myself were at NJMSP in Millville, NJ for a track experience through NASA NE. We got to drive on the 1.9 mile, 10 turn Lightning course during the Hypedrive session, which consists of driving your own car for about 10 paced laps (ie: no passing) with an instructor by your side.

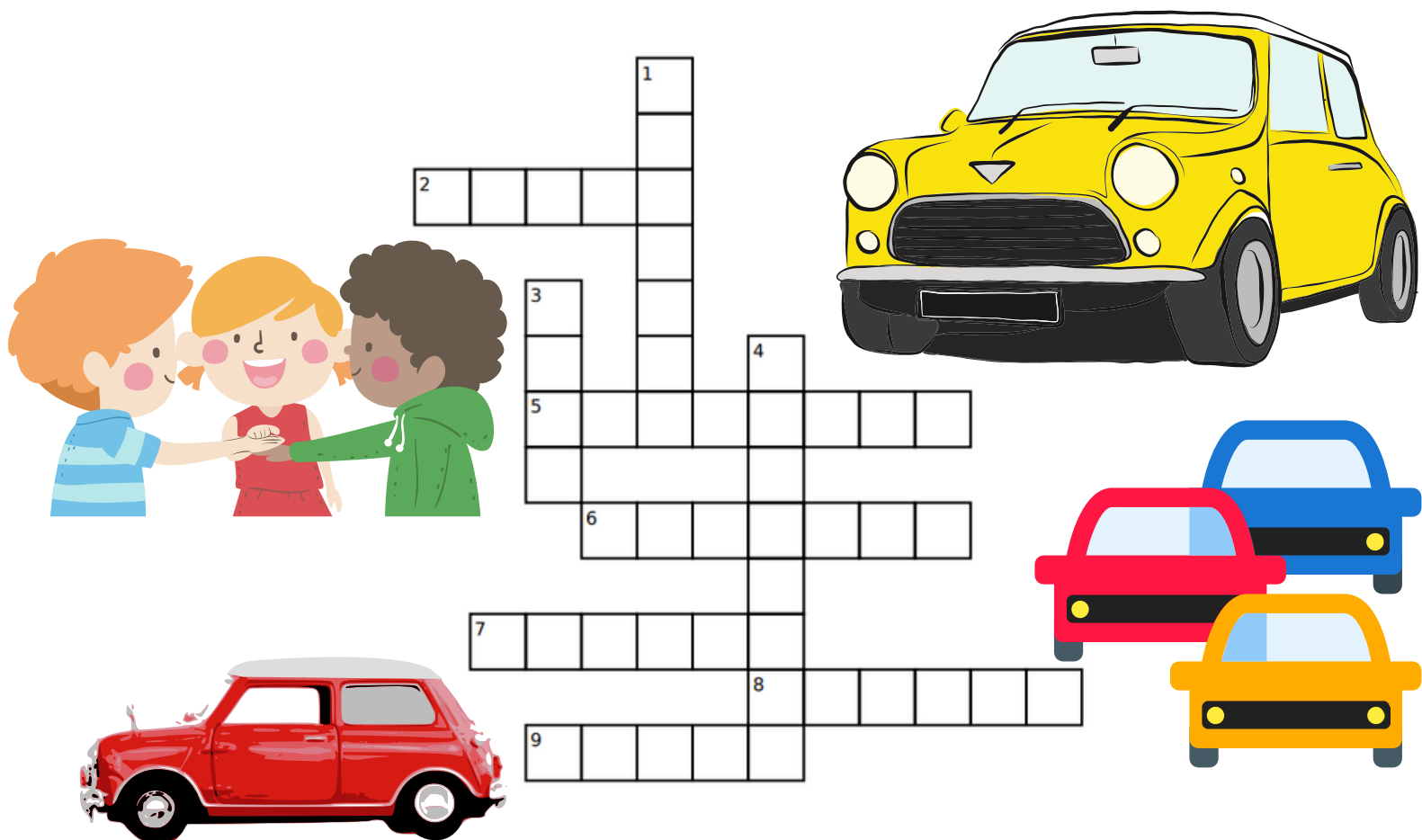
The Hyperdrive is an awesome way to introduce yourself to the thrill of driving on a racetrack at minimal cost. (\$50.00 for approximately 30 minutes). All you need is a helmet and a sense of adventure to truly enjoy the session. The course consists of some great elevation changes and a few technical corners which leaves you wanting more track time. We both achieved speeds of upwards of 90 to 95 miles per hour on the front straight which was only limited to the speeds of the cars in front of us.

Tips from our instructors allowed us to find out how awesome our Mini's handling really was and allowed us drive deeper into the corners at speed with confidence. For those who catch the bug, NASA NE offers HPDE (high performance driver education) experiences on tracks throughout the Northeast. In 2023, NASA NE held six different events at NJMSP utilizing both tracks at the facility.

So if you ever dreamt about driving your Mini on real race track, (sorry, unfortunately New Jersey safety regulations do not allow convertibles to be driven on the track), then this is something you may want to try in the future. Although the 2023 season is over, once NASA NE unveils the 2024 schedule, we will be planning some more track days.



# PhillyMINI 2023 Roundup Crossword



## Down:

1. Last name of the first Member Spotlight in the first PhillyMINI Navigator
3. Who Vinnie is in love with
4. Month of the first issue of the Navigator

## Across:

2. First name of the 2023 Cooper Cup winner
5. Barry Meyer's MINI's name
6. First name of the 2023 Cooper Cup winning Navigator
7. The last rally in November
8. The last name of the only person with two pictures in the 2023 calendar
9. Your PrimeMINIster



Down  
1. Trexler  
2. Allie  
3. Josh  
4. February  
5. Patrick  
6. Pagoda  
7. Rhodes  
8. Tracy  
9. Tracy

## **MONTHLY & YUMMY**



**We can't do it without your help!!!**

- Pick a restaurant
- Pick a date
- Give your information to Joyclynn Reynolds and she will post your event.





# PhillyMINI Camps Out

Time moved along very fast and they called the MINIs to line up early for unloading our donations, but then just as fast as it was moving, it came to a screeching halt! We learned that the crowds of people and cars got so big, the management at Wells Fargo Center closed and locked all the gates! Not only couldn't people get in but they also couldn't get out! Inside and Outside the gates was a sea of cars and people and nothing was moving! It took a bit for organizers to track down the right people and get things moving again. The organizers even had to go out to the street and pick up donations from the Tesla club that arrived just as they locked the gates. Their donations had to be hauled back to the tents with forklifts.

All said and done, PhillyMINI had one of its best years for donations! We had 13 cars and donated 9738 pounds of food with donations and the cash equivalent. Thanks for giving! Please join us next year. We would love to show off more MINIs and break our current donation record.





# Pagoda Rally : Tiers of Fun

By Josh Markovitz and Darci Galie

Our Philly Mini group was excited to welcome back an oldie but goodie on Saturday, November 18th, 2023. The Pagoda Rally has not been run in its entirety since 2019. Twenty-seven cars participated in a whirlwind cruise through Lancaster, ending at Shady Maple Smorgasbord. We started the morning out in Morgantown and stopped at Pennside Drive-in located in Reading after the Hillclimb to the Pagoda, an iconic Reading landmark, for ice cream and snacks before starting the second leg.

The people at Pennside Drive-in could not have been more excellent and offered to host Philly Mini eagerly for upcoming events. The new owner of Pennside Drive-in quickly connected with our members and shared how much he enjoyed having our car club there in his establishment. The staff was super welcoming as well, with the addition of a videographer there to feature our outing on their Drive-in FaceBook page.

While many of the leaves had already fallen, there were still plenty of beautiful sights, winding roads, and great company with our members who supported this rally. The day started chillier than expected but warmed up when we got to the Pagoda. We welcomed a new member, Sheri Harris Popowitz, who was quickly welcomed into our community. Sheri fit right in with the pack and drove like a seasoned professional, always vigilant of the mustard and the mayo.





While we all had a blast, we made notes of edits and changes that could be helpful and necessary for the next time we run this rally. Like any event, there is always room for improvement. Thanks to Paul Petrella, we were able to bypass the long, wrapping line around Shady Maple to enter the group waiting area. Shout out to Paul! Knowing now, if we return to the smorgasbord in the future, we look forward to making that experience more streamlined and efficient for everyone.

For all members who missed this event, we look forward to seeing you, meeting up, and rerunning it in the coming years. Thank you to everyone who turned out to support the Pagoda rally, it was a blast! We wish you and your loved ones a splendid holiday season full of love, laughter, and cheer! Hoping to see you all at the Deck the Mini's on December 9th. If not Happy New Year and we can not wait to see you at the next event!



ESTABLISHED IN 2003



PHILLYMINI.ORG





**This the Season!**

**Are you a last minute shopper?**

**Wondering what to get your MINIlac for the holidays?**

**Log into your member account and shop all the fantastic discounts from our preferred Dealers and Vendors!**



# December

HAPPY

# Birthday

Gregory Baker  
David Collins  
Allen Eagles  
John Grabowski  
Kay Henderson  
Robert Jonas  
Randy Krapf  
Rob Leopold  
Albert McCloe  
Ali Nabavi  
Mark Paulits  
Alison Quinn  
Andrew Ramsey  
Elizabeth Ramsey  
Sherry Reichard  
Rob Riccardelli  
Allie Sasek  
Nicolas Silva  
Andrea Silver



# DECEMBER

# 2023

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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3	4	5	6	7	8	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## 9 Deck the MINIs



2023 Deck the MNIs  
Champion: Darci & Josh





Club ministers worked extremely hard this year, and after Deck the MINIs - our official season end - the officers will take a short winter nap while we prepare for next year's spring opener!!! Have a wonderful holiday season and see you in the Spring!