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SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

SUMMERTIME MEANS TWISTY TIME

We hope that you are all out enjoying the summer in the great Pacific Northwest. It's such a great time to search out and find those perm-a-grin roads that can make your day!



THE ART OF RALLYING by Bruce & Stacie Hart Winners of the 2011 Tulip Rallye!

Do you like rallies? So do we. As we've climbed closer to the top of the rally scoreboard in recent years, newsletter editor Leanne insisted we share our tips for successful rallying. Take heed of our suggestions, and you too might find yourself in the winner's circle!

First of all, know your rally. There are several types, including traditional TSD (Time/Speed/Distance) rallies which follow specific 'rally rules' as well as 'gimmick rallies' which we'll talk about here. Gimmick rallies feature turn-by-turn directions and questions referencing things you pass on the route. There are different ways to set up a gimmick rally. The Tulip Rallye, put on by the MG Car Club NW, features clear directions including street names, but challenges you with questions that are more whimsical. Those of you who have participated in The Winged Victory Rally know that it features straightforward, fill-in-the-blank style questions with answers to be found along the route, and directions that are somewhat tricky, generally without street names. Both rallies also include trivia questions, which are diminishing in importance as mobile technology takes the guessing out of the game. Poker Rallies or Scavenger Hunt Rallies are other examples of gimmick rallies.

A rally team consists of two people, a driver and a navigator. Running a rally by yourself would be almost impossible, not to mention a bit dangerous. The navigator reads and interprets the route instructions and writes down the answers to the questions while the driver helps spot answers to the clues while driving the course. More simply put, the navigator's job is to tell the driver where to go and the driver's job is to go there. This can be your undoing if you haven't chosen the right partner, so choose well.

Start preparing for the next rally today. As you drive around, especially in an unfamiliar area, pretend you are

a rallymaster. Read all the signs and take note of anything that would make for a good question along the way. For example, if you pass by a Church's Chicken restaurant, think about how the question would be posed on a rally. On the Tulip Rallye, the question might be "Even 'The Colonel' eats here on Sunday", the "Colonel" in question being, of course, Colonel Sanders and the word "Sunday" referring to "Church's" in the name of the restaurant. Reading and looking at signs now will help you get used to doing it "at speed" during an actual rally, where there is a time limit in which to complete the route. We've also found that watching game shows helps our rally skills. In particular, watching Wheel Of Fortune helps us to "see" words and playing along with Jeopardy! helps us answer questions quickly.

Almost everybody brings some special skill to the rally with them, even if they don't realize it. Do you recognize or look for shapes as you see the world? Does your brain look for numbers and add or subtract them subconsciously? You might look at the world as if you are framing a good photograph, paying attention to color or contrast, or notice different styles of lettering on signs. All of these skills or habits can be useful to you while rallying. Stacie's brain keeps itself busy by subconsciously counting the letters in words or phrases. In the above example, she can almost instantly tell you that "Church's Chicken" has 14 letters in it. This helped us on the recent Tulip Rallye. While trying to remember how to spell an answer, she remembered how many letters the word had in it, allowing us to spell the answer correctly without the extra letter I wanted to put in it. While the degree of accuracy required varies by rally, you should always strive to make your answers as correct as possible.

Read the answer sheet very carefully before you start the rally. There may be questions hidden at the end that you won't be able to answer unless you were paying attention while driving the course. Some rallies may ask you how many times you crossed rail road tracks or over county lines if you followed the course as directed, without backtracking. Also, sometimes a gimmick rally will phrase its directions in terms of "take a right at the third opportunity." 'Opportunities' follow traditional rally rules and eliminate streets like Dead Ends, etc. Pay attention and start counting your opportunities immediately after executing the previous route instruction. Failure to follow this simple rule may result in you finding yourself miles off course (or so we've heard). Don't leave any questions blank, as they are automatically wrong. Gimmick rallies are graded first on the quiz answers, so turning in a complete answer sheet gives you the edge over a team that may have a better time or lower mileage, but fewer correctly answered questions.

Follow your first instinct when answering questions. As we become overloaded with information sources, we tend to stop trusting the information that is stored in our own brains and often look for validation of our knowledge elsewhere. The Tulip and Winged Victory rallies are a great place to let your brain loose and start trusting your own knowledge. You are smarter than you know.

While on the rally, think like a rallymaster. An example of how that cost us dearly on a Winged Victory rally involves what constitutes the "number" of a cell phone tower. As a broadcast engineer, I immediately looked for and put down the FCC registration number of the tower, not thinking that having to stop the car, get out and walk up to the small registration plate violated the spirit of the rally, which dictates that clues can be found "at speed." If I had thought like a rallymaster, I would have realized that the address of the tower, which was the large number next to the door of the transmitter shack, was the correct rally answer.

Forget about using maps or a GPS during the rally. There isn't really time to do so, and you don't know where you are anyway. Plus, you don't care about the shortest route. You need to follow the route instructions in order to answer the questions. At best, a map or GPS might be handy to get you back on course if you get really lost. But now that you've read this handy guide, that's not going to happen, right?

Finally, the night before the rally, remember to pack snacks and drinks so you can stay focused, and bring a picnic lunch for the end of the rally, depending on where it ends. We also print out a sign for the dash that says "We're Doing This For Fun" (as instructed by CINIMIN/Jack). Remember to get a good night's rest, and I recommend Kung Pao Chicken for dinner the night before. Hey, it worked for us!

LOOKING BACK . . .

RETURN TO THIS IS STONEHENGE AGAIN



Photos by Linda Grouell

AMVIV8 Cliffs, Curves & Cactus 2011



UPCOMING EVENTS

- JUL 30**
LADIES AUTOCROSS, BREMERTON, WA
- JUL 31**
LEGENDS CAR CLUB – KIRKLAND CLASSIC CAR SHOW,
KIRKLAND, WA
- AUG 3**
MITM, WINTER PARK, CO
- AUG 14**
PSMINI ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC, EVERETT, WA
- AUG 27**
MONROE FAIR DAYS, MONROE, WA
- AUG 28**
DRIVE THROUGH SAN JUAN ISLANDS, WA
- SEP 25**
ANNUAL XXX CAR SHOW, ISSAQUAH, WA

THERE ARE A LOT OF BLANK WEEKENDS THAT STILL NEED TO BE FILLED UP, SO PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAPS AND PUT TOGETHER A DRIVE!



2011 PSMINI OFFICERS

- Linda Grouell ("WOODSTOCK"), President**
Email: president@psmini.org
- John O'Melveny ("PEABODY"), Vice President**
Email: vicepresident@psmini.org
- Kurt Hammond ("CORNERS"), Events Officer**
Email: events@psmini.org
- Leanne Powell ("CATLVR2"), Communications Officer / Secretary**
Email: secretary@psmini.org
- Karin Nilsson ("TWIZZLR"), Finance Officer / Treasurer**
Email: treasurer@psmini.org

Woodstock Chirps

Has Summer FINALLY shown up? We can hope so, although I wouldn't trade our weather for the heat that's taken place in the rest of the country. Quite a remarkable year in the bad weather department.

There haven't been as many drives this spring and early summer and I think the weather has been a major factor. We look outside and it often doesn't look like a fun day for a drive. I'm hoping that trend will change starting now and here's what you can do to help make things happen.

Ever thought about taking a drive somewhere in your MINI with friends? Ever wanted to repeat some of the drives we've done in the past? If so, jump in and post an interest and ask for help. We have routes for runs we've done in the past and we will help you put one together and give you guidance in doing so. That's the way Stonehenge got started and look what it's become! Don't be shy about planning or leading a run. We're here to help and this club is amazing when it comes to resources. If you're not comfortable leading the run, help get it organized and ask someone else to run the lead.

There are all kinds of runs to do:

- Mt. Baker
- White Pass - 410
- Mt. St. Helens
- Chuckanut Drive
- Whidbey loop
- Cascade Loop
- Wine trip to the Tri-Cities or Walla Walla
- Head over to Neah Bay
- Hurricane Ridge
- Columbia Gorge
- North Cascades
- Three Point tour
- Highway 9 and a stop at the restaurant up out of Sedro Wooley by the Sisters

Obviously, in addition to these, there are many more! Spend some time looking at Destination Highways or go to maps.google.com or other favorite mapping sites and drill down to find some fun roads. Order the Washington State Scenic Byways & Road Trips or stop by AAA and pick up a travel book/map. Let any of your officers know if you need help!

Meanwhile, I hope you'll join us at the PSMINI Family Picnic at Silver Lake on the 14th of August! Bring a side dish or dessert and stop by for some relaxing fun.

Other activities coming up quickly are the PSMINI-SAMOA Triple X car show the end of September and we need some volunteers to move that forward and make it happen. In addition, the Christmas Party will be here before you know it and we're looking for volunteers for that as well.

You might also want to give some thought to elections for 2012 officers. Interested in serving? Talk to any one of us to find out more. It's a great way to get involved and help. (Despite the chant from Stonehenge attendees at dinner.....)

Cheers and Keep Motoring!
Linda "WOODSTOCK"

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Karl & Tammy Hewlett (USA_1_INK) 2011 Spice Orange Met/Blk MC
Roger Kimble (WildcatFan) 2011 Chili Red/Blk MCS
Gregory & Nicole Noone (Noonzio) 2005 Grey/Blk MCS
Mark Longridge (Monti) 2004 Red/White MCS
Brian & Irene Krall (koolburro) 2009 Sparkling Silver/Blk MCS Clubman
Joe & Robin Rees (kokomo) 2011 Blue/Blk MCS
Greg Enslow & Christin Boyd (GregEnslow) 2007 Laser Blue/Wht MCS
Anthony Gallela & Nicole Majczan (agallela) 2006 Black/Black MC
Paris Waddill & EmmaLeigh Cox (DiveMasterP) 2011 Reef Blue/Blk MCS Clubman
Derek Wilkinson (wilkinson) 2003 Indi Blue/White MCS
Jim Sutton & Mary Klise (jimsu) 2011 Pepper White/Blk MCS
Arnold & Nadine Frank (arnnad) 2011 Cosmic Blue/Wht S Countryman
Jeffrey Dorgan (jeffers7) 2006 Chili Red / White MC
Troy & Christina Hines (bimah320) 2003 Chili Red/Blk MCS
Lenny & Barb Walker (Lj) 2010 British Racing Green / Blk MCS
Michelle & Chris Miller (herz3mc) 2011 Black / Black MC
Tom Lyons (CR99) 2011 Chili Red/Blk MCS
Heather Thrush (Nudge) 2010 Dark Silver/Blk MCS
Diana Rigelman (McRigel) 2008 Oxygen Blue MC
David Martinez (Marty) 2007 Blue / White MCS
Tiffany Rochelle (HammyGirl) 2011 Pepper White/Blk MCS
Mark Hutcheson (FaberGrad) 2008 Lightning Blue/Blk MC
Lynn Austin (speedy1) 2011 Pepper White/Blk MCS
Kay & Susan McMillen (KsMINI) 2011 Laser Blue/Blk MCS
Bradley & Heather Lickenbrock (Brad) 2011 Red / White Countryman



5 YEAR MEMBERS!

April **Shane & Angala Peterson (fingershooter)**
June **John & Dixie Benny (Jrbenny)**
Jeff & Erika Scherpelz (SCHRIKE)

TOP TEN WITH BRENDA FROMHOLD

Brenda Fromhold (Hapa Haole) is our featured member for this summer issue. Brenda has been a PSMINI Motoring Club member since 2007.



got caught in a torrential downpour when we stayed in a tent while touring through New Mexico. If we hadn't been sleeping "in" the tent, the tent would've been blown away from all the wind and rain. I had started laughing hysterically at about 2am in the morning as the wind and rain continued. I told Steve it was a good thing he decided to put the rainfly up because it would have been awful to do it when it was raining like it was. 😊 It was definitely a memorable experience. One bummer thing is we forgot to bring a tarp for the ground cover underneath the tent. I had to pack a muddy tent into my brand new MINI. My poor baby was pretty dirty and less than a week old! 😞 One funny thing... We'd get some odd and curious looks from people at various campsites when we unpacked a huge 4-person tent, king-size air mattress, electric air pump and foot air pump, camp stove, lantern, flashlights, cooler, 2 sleeping bags, pillows, suitcases, and miscellaneous other things out of the MINI. People couldn't figure out how we fit all that stuff in Hapa besides Steve who is 6'6. 😊

7. What was your worst car? Probably the Toyota Starlet. It handled horribly!

8. What is your favorite road food? Hmm, I guess in warmer climates I like a Mocha Frappuccino Light to drink. I seem to make frequent stops at Quiznos and Subway.

9. What makes a good MINI owner? That's a tough one... There's more than one thing that makes a good MINI owner. I guess someone that treats their MINI like family? I try to give my MINI the best food (high quality oil, filters, and Supreme fuel from Chevron), and I take good care of her with various detailing products from Griots. I also think a good MINI owner would wave to every MINI they see out on the streets. I sometimes even toot the horn and flash the lights along with my waving. I almost always talk to other MINI owners I may see to tell them of the fun experiences (and discounts too as well as knowledge) they could enjoy by joining PSMINI. Also, I try to drive courteously by not cutting off people or tailgating.

- 1. Three things you always have in your MINI?** Portable GPS, fuel additive, and fix-a-flat set including a portable air compressor.
- 2. What was your best road trip?** Probably the trip home after buying my MINI at a dealer in Arlington, TX. My husband Steve and I visited 9 national Parks, and put nearly 4,000 miles on my MINI "Hapa" in two weeks. What a drive!!! I'd say the group drives to AMVIV are also a close second.
- 3. Super Charger or Turbo?** *Definitely* a supercharger! I *love* to hear the whine and the burble more than listening to the radio.
- 4. Best MINI Mod for the money?** 15% smaller supercharger pulley. It's an easy mod to install, not too costly, and for sure makes for better acceleration.
- 5. What was your first car?** My very first vehicle was a Toyota Starlet that my Dad bought me in the mid 80s. 😊 One of the first cars I learned to drive was a VW Beetle though.
- 6. What is your best MINI memory?** I'd say it was camping out of Hapa. Steve and I

10. Quote to live by: "Motor on!!!" 😊



PS MINI PARTNERS

- Seattle MINI**
(www.seattlemini.com)
- Northwest MINI**
(www.northwestmini.com)
- 425 Motorsports**
(www.425motorsports.com)
- Accutint**
(www.accutintbellevue.com)
(www.accutint.com)
- Alta Performance**
(www.altaperformance.com)

- Craven Speed**
(www.cravenspeed.com)
- Destination Highways**
(www.destinationhighways.com)
- Eurocar Service**
(www.eurocarservice.com)
- Griot's Garage**
(www.griotsgarage.com)
- Langka Paint Chip & Scratch Repair**
(www.langka.com)

- MINI Madness**
(www.mini-madness.com)
- MINI Mania**
(www.minimania.com)
- Out Motoring**
(www.outmotoring.com)
- Same Day Scratch and Dent Repair**
(www.sameday-usa.com)
- Zantech Import Automotive**
(www.zantechauto.com)